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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$10 Million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund announced

*Small businesses
impacted by COVID-19
can access funds*

BOSTON –The Baker-Polito Administration announced economic support for small businesses with a \$10 million loan fund to provide financial relief to those that have been affected by COVID-19.

The \$10 million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund will provide emergency capital up to \$75,000 to Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with under 50 full and part-time employees, including nonprofits. Loans are immediately available to eligible businesses with no payments due for the first six months.

Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation has capitalized the fund and will administer it.

“As our administration continues to take steps to protect the health and safety of residents, we recognize the hardships facing the small businesses that create the foundation of the state’s economy,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “This recovery loan fund is a new resource to help small businesses address emergency needs due to the disruption caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

“Small business owners and their employees are our neighbors and our friends, and their enterprises play vital roles in our communities, and we are committed to helping them cope with the impacts of COVID-19,” said Lt. Gov.

Karyn Polito. “As we announce this small business recovery loan fund, we will continue to work with the Legislature and our federal partners to find ways to effectively provide assistance during this public health emergency.”

tion continues to expand its comprehensive COVID-19 response,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “These new recovery loans complement other resources like the state WorkShare program and federal

“MGCC is committed to helping support the commonwealth’s small businesses through this time,” said Lawrence Andrews, President and CEO of MGCC. “We are proud to offer this fund as it serves our mission to save jobs and promote economic development. All processing and funding will take place online through MGCC staff.”

How to apply:

Please complete the application found on MGCC’s website, EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org. Completed applications can be sent via email to mgcc@massgcc.com with the subject line “2020 Small Business Recovery Loan Fund.” MGCC can be reached by email at mgcc@massgcc.com.

Loan fund details:
·Who qualifies: Open to Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with under 50 full- and part-time employees, including nonprofits (negative impact must be verifiable).

·Terms and conditions: This fund is being offered with no payments due for the first six months, then 30-months of principal and interest payments and no prepayment penalties.

·Businesses can apply for loans up to \$75,000.

MGCC is a quasi-public corporation of the Commonwealth that saves and creates jobs at small businesses, often minority and women-owned businesses, by providing

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EDUCATION

Local online connections, entertainment during coronavirus shutdowns

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – Despite the state-wide school and business shutdowns that the coronavirus has caused, staff members of Monson Public Schools and the Monson Free Library are not giving up on lending a helping hand to their community.

Sandra Courtney, Youth Services Librarian for the Monson Free Library, said that the library is working on different ways to help families stay connected with them.

To continue offering the recently launched Code Club for Kids, staff have worked with their grant partners at the e-coding resource “Prenda” to allow kids to keep working from home and open the program to anyone interested in coding.

New members can sign up at <http://app.prendacodeclub.com>.

“As coders work through their projects and missions, they will be able to share and see what their friends are working on,” Courtney said.

Courtney also said that this is a great time to catch up on reading, and that members of the library can download e-books, audio and more on Overdrive through the CWMARS catalog on the library’s website. Also, Monson residents with a Monson Free Library Card can download the same digital content, music and movies by downloading the Hoopla app to their devices.

“We have extended the number of items that a patron can borrow on Hoopla to 20 per month to help families reach more resources at this time,” said Courtney. “In addition to escaping through fiction, I highly recommend checking out books to learn more about cooking together, learning new skills, local hikes, bird watching and other activities that families can do together.”

Beginning next week, Courtney said that story times will be filmed and shared on social media, and that staff members will also be working on putting together some “make-and-take” craft kits. This information will be shared on social media and the library’s website as well.

Qi Gong Instructor Randy Emerson will also be filming his popular program online. For more

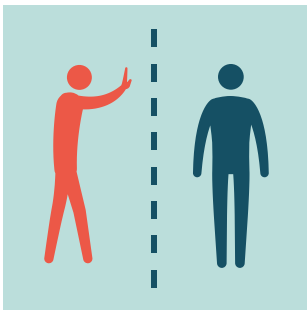
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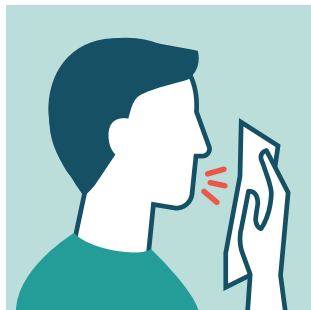
IF YOU ARE INFECTED



STAY AT HOME



AVOID CONTACT
WITH OTHERS



COVER YOUR NOSE
AND MOUTH WITH
TISSUE OR ELBOW
WHEN SNEEZING



PUT TISSUES
IN THE TRASH BIN
AND WASH HANDS



KEEP OBJECTS AND
SURFACES CLEAN

PUBLIC HEALTH

Schools close, gatherings banned as coronavirus spreads

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

All public and private schools will be closed for at least three weeks, restaurants will be limited to delivery or take-out only for a month and gatherings of over 25 people will be temporarily banned, Gov. Charlie Baker announced Sunday.

On Monday, Baker also announced a \$10 million recovery

loan fund to help small businesses in the state affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the Associated Press reported.

For 80% of the population, the coronavirus feels like the flu and doesn’t lead to hospitalization, Baker said in a press conference Sunday.

“The reason we’re taking this so seriously is because it is incredibly contagious,” Baker said. “It’s more contagious than the seasonal flu.”

On Monday, health officials reported there were 197 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state., up from 164 on Sunday, and 14 hospitalizations, according to the Boston Herald. As of Monday night, there were 181,377 cases worldwide and 7,119 deaths, according to a map by Johns Hopkins University. Most of the deaths were in China, Italy, Iran and Spain.

If we “take decisive steps now and everyone plays their part by fol-

lowing the best medical guidance, we can slow down the spread, and our healthcare system can be better positioned to care for the people who need it,” Baker said.

The state-wide order banning gatherings of 25 or more people applies to spaces like churches, gyms, concerts and offices and is in effect until April 5. Baker said there are no shelter in place orders. The state has also temporarily suspended certain provisions of open meeting laws in

order to allow for boards and commissions to meet via phone or internet, which still allow real-time public access.

Doctors say that social distancing now will be key to flattening the curve of the pandemic.

“Our health system will not be able to cope with the projected numbers of people who will need acute care should we not muster the

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TRANSPORTATION

Palmer Rail committee provides update on the East-West Rail Study

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER - Two of the five conclusions in a study by the UMass Amherst Center for Economic Development state that a Palmer stop in an east-west rail line will open up an under-served region to passenger rail service and expand commuting capabilities.

The town also has ample and appropriate infrastructure for a stop, including several available sites in the downtown area, according to the study done for the Town of Palmer.

This study, which was based on interviews with members of the business community, team leaders, a community-wide charrette, and a review of quantitative data focusing on the Lower Quabbin Region of 21 towns, shows that Palmer is a likely a site for a passenger rail-stop on the east-west rail line.

Although the Palmer Rail Steering Committee was unable

to meet last week, on March 12, they still want to inform the public about what was discussed at the East-West Rail Advisory Committee meeting on Monday,



Feb. 24 at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel, said chair Benjamin Hood.

At the meeting, Maureen Mullaney, Transportation and GIS

Program Manager of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), and Jonathan Butler, president and CEO of I Berkshire, gave a presentation of comments on the alternatives of the rail line, titled “Comments on East-West Passenger Rail Study Alternatives Analysis.”

The analysis reviewed the six preliminary alternatives under consideration, which offer different locations in which the rail line could start, different bus connections and more.

The comments were prepared by FRCOG, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), I Berkshire, and Senator Adam Hinds (D-Pittsfield) after the Feb. 6 Advisory Committee meeting. The entire analysis can be viewed online, at <https://bit.ly/2ISTqLv>.

Nancy Farrell, CEO of Regi-

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COMMUNITY

Teen remembered through region-wide fundraising efforts

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

LUDLOW – Nathan M. Carreira grew up in Ludlow and was known as a dedicated alpine ski racer, among many other things.

He touched the lives of numerous people, especially during his time at the Stratton Mountain Resort in Vermont, where he’d spent many weekends since he was young. Carreira was a member of the Stratton Winter Sports Club and an award winner in the Southern Vermont Council for ski racing.

On March 26, it will have been two years since Nathan committed suicide. In order to honor his memory, Nathan’s mother, Karen, said that her husband, Michael, and daughter, Natalie, met with a group of Nathan’s closest ski friends from Connecticut, New York, and Vermont, who decided they would honor Nathan with an annual ski race.

The name of annual race was first called the “Nathan M. Carreira Race,” now known as “#Shred4Nate,” which takes place at the Stratton Mountain Resort.

When reflecting on her son, Karen Carreira said that networking with other people who have experienced similar losses, going to individual counseling and getting support from friends and family and the ski community in Vermont helped her and the rest of the family shift from the life they knew to “a new experience.”

She said that she encourages parents, doctors, friends, school faculty, and anyone to notice and question the changes of behavior in teenagers, since they could possibly have their own struggles they deal with daily.

The goal of the annual event is to have a fun ski race that strengthens and builds a community, while



Nathan M. Carreira

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Applicants Sought For A Better Monson

The Grace Makepeace Trust for Historic Preservation is seeking applicants within the Town of Monson to apply for grants from the Trust.

The Trust will consider requests from persons or organizations up to \$1000.00 for projects that fall into the following categories and criteria.

1. Maintaining the responsibilities of the Monson Historical Commission
2. Support of any property bequeathed or devised to the Town of Monson for historic purposes
3. Support for any museum maintained and established in the Town of Monson for historic purposes
4. Support any assertive or aggressive ideas within the Town of Monson to promote the Town;
5. Other examples of what the Trust would consider, but is not limited to these examples -
 - a. Development and promotion of tourism
 - b. Promotion of the general economy related to: establishing historic sites; renovations to current historical buildings; educational programming to include payment for exhibits, speakers or recreating town meetings;
6. Additional acquisitions of properties within the Town of Monson;
7. Maintenance of any historic property within the Town.

Please submit only one (1) application per individual or organization.

For anyone interested in applying please go to shepemy@gmail.com for additional information and an application form. Please submit five (5) copies of your application. All applications must be mailed and received by April 21, 2020 to Makepeace Trust, 4 Carpenter Rd., Monson, MA 01057

Holland Community Compact Grant

HOLLAND – The town of Holland is pleased to announce it was recently awarded two Community Compact - Best Practices Grants by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Community Compact Cabinet.

The first grant award of \$11,190 will provide funds for the Town of Holland to have all of its general and zoning bylaws reviewed, updated and professionally codified. According to Senator Anne Gobi, “The Town of Holland continually looks for ways to make town government work better for its residents and businesses and these grants are an example of that. I will continue to support the town and funding for Community Compact grants.”

The second grant award of \$6,450, will provide funds for the Town of Holland to purchase an improved budgeting program. This program will create a more transparent budgeting document that more clearly details all revenues and expenditures, better communicates the town’s financial policies, and will also assist the town improve its long-range financial planning. “I’m thrilled that Holland was able to secure this competitive funding,” said Representative Todd Smola (First Hampden District). “These grants help ensure that local governments throughout Massachusetts are as effective as possible.”

About the Community Compact Cabinet:

Formed in January 2015, the Community Compact Cabinet is chaired by Lt. Governor Polito and is composed of the secretaries of Housing & Economic Development, Education, Transportation, Energy & Environmental Affairs, and Technology Services and Security, and the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services and the Assistant Secretary of Operational Services. The Community Compact Cabinet elevates the Administration’s partnerships with cities and towns, and allows the Governor’s Office to work more closely with leaders from all municipalities. The Cabinet champions municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies, and develops, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards and best practices for both the state and municipalities. The creation of Community Compacts creates clear standards, expectations, and accountability for both partners.

Local Pastor retires from St. Cecilia Parish

Last day set for May 1

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – After a career of more than 40 years, six of which spent in Wilbraham, the Rev. Daniel Boyle, beloved pastor of St. Cecilia’s Church, recently announced his retirement from ministry. His last day at the church will be May 1.

Boyle has been a pastor for the St. Cecilia Parish community for the past six years. He arrived in Wilbraham in 2014 from Adams when he succeeded the church’s previous pastor, the Rev. Joseph Soranno, who had retired at that time.

Boyle described his time at St. Cecilia as a blessing where he had a great and loyal staff. He praised the work completed by several individuals in particular, including Pastoral Minister for the Parish Sister Mary McCue, Parish Deacons Jim Ziemba and Andy Nowicki, Religious Education Program Director Rosemary Oldread, Director of Music Todd Rovelli, and Parish Administrator Annette Bishop, who was assisted by Ann Matthews, and former Bulletin Editor Mary Beth Pin.

Boyle also thanked the custodial staff, the church usher, the Women’s Club, the Knights of Columbus, and the volunteer staff.

“I have been told by visitors that whenever they come to St. Cecilia Parish, they are always made to feel welcome by the greeters at the doors at each Mass,” he said. “I really loved Wilbraham —the parishioners were great and they gave terrific support to the parish organizations and events.”



Boyle added that the Knights and the Women’s Club members worked jointly together on community projects, including extensive work with the Community Survival Center in collecting food every week and during the Thanksgiving and Easter holidays.

“Congratulations to Father Boyle on his retirement and for his many years of service to the Parish,” said Mary Cassidy, the Executive Director of the Survival Center.

Cassidy added that the Survival Center community is very grateful to the church community for their monetary support and for the hundreds of pounds of food brought to the center each month. The center, located on Main Street in Indian Orchard, serves the towns of Hampden, Ludlow and Wilbraham, as well as the Springfield neighborhoods of Indian Orchard, Sixteen Acres and Pine Point.

A Springfield native, Boyle has previously served as pastor of Pope John Paull II Parish in Adams and has been a priest for 42 years. He said while he is retiring from active ministry due to underlying health issues, he will not be retiring from priesthood — Boyle will become the Priest in Residence at St. Mary’s Parish in Longmeadow where he will be assisting Pastor C.J. Waitekus.

“I was sent here by the Bishop to minister to the people of St. Cecilia Parish, and it really turned out that because of the love that the people of St. Cecilia Parish have for others throughout the local area, as well as the world, I was helping to minister to lots of other people besides those in Wilbraham,” Boyle said. “God does his work in mysterious ways, and I thank him that I was able to be a part his plan.”

Audiology Team Offers Help with Hearing Loss

The Audiology Team at Baystate Mary Lane and Baystate Wing Offer Hearing Screenings and Solutions on Site and in the Community

Palmer – Hearing loss is a sudden or gradual decrease in how well you can hear, and is one of the most common conditions affecting people of all ages.

According to the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), approximately 15 percent of American adults (37.5 million) aged 18 and over report some trouble hearing and one in three people between the ages of 65 and 74 has hearing loss.

“Hearing loss is a common problem caused by noise, aging, disease, or heredity, and can have a big impact on a person’s quality of life, both physically and emotionally,” said Deborah Stroetzel, MA, CCC-A, audiologist at Baystate Mary Lane and Baystate Wing Hospital. “Hearing loss has been linked to stress, depression, loneliness, reduced job performance, and reduced physical and emotional health. People with hearing loss may find it hard to have conver-

sations with friends and family and they may also have trouble understanding a doctor’s advice, responding to warnings, and hearing doorbells and alarms. All of this can be frustrating, embarrassing, and even dangerous.”

“There are many causes of hearing loss and it is often treatable,” said Sheila Tzoumas, Au.D., CCC-A, who joins fellow audiologists Stroetzel and Cassandra Hawk, to ensure that all patients receive accurate, up-to-date information to help them find the best possible solution for their hearing loss on the campuses of Baystate Mary Lane, Baystate Wing and out in the community.

“It is important to first figure out what’s causing the hearing loss to determine the right treatment. Hearing loss tends to isolate people; often hearing aids can bring them back into the mix,” said Tzoumas. “Depending on their hearing loss, we offer a demo program where our patients can try hearing aids for a short time. Our patients often return saying wearing the hearing aids not only enhances their hearing, but also improves their ability to participate in life again.”

Even with the obvious signs, it still can be difficult to admit that changes in one’s hearing are taking place. When seniors experience hearing loss, they sometimes feel embarrassed, afraid and left out. To address this, Stroetzel, Tzoumas and Hawk offer free periodic hearing services at area local senior

centers. These free services are provided by one of the team’s experienced audiologists and include hearing screenings, a check for ear wax accumulation, and cleaning and checking hearing aids.

The Audiology team offers free clinics at the Palmer, Ludlow, and Belchertown Senior Centers, where our audiologists provide hearing screenings, check ears for wax, and clean and check hearing aids at no charge. Seniors can call their local senior center in order to schedule an appointment for the free clinics; Palmer Senior Center (413) 283-2670, Ludlow Senior Center (413) 583-3564, Belchertown Senior Center (413) 323-0420.

The Audiology and Hearing Improvement Centers located in Palmer, Ware and Ludlow offer routine hearing tests, specialized audiological testing, and tests for middle ear function. In addition, the audiology team offers a comprehensive hearing aid program and provides hearing aid evaluations, demonstrations, fittings, adjustments and cleanings. Special services such as swim plugs, noise protectors, and musicians’ earplugs are also available.

To make an appointment with Deborah Stroetzel, MA, CCC-A, Sheila Tzoumas, Au.D., CCC-A or Cassandra Hawk, Au.D., CCC-A in Palmer, Ware or Ludlow, please call 413-370-5499.

tech solution, that is modern, environmentally friendly, fast and effective. However, I completely agree with you that an affordable service, developed as soon as possible, is a smarter pursuit for the immediate future,” Smola said. “I don’t want to wait 20 years to see an east-west service implemented. We have already waited long enough. I am more than willing to endorse a mixed option provide that it guarantees some of the things that were discussed at the meeting.”

At the end of the Advisory Committee meeting, other members of the public gave their feedback about the final three alternatives as well.

Anne Miller from CPRS spoke about her own experience with commuting on trains from the North Shore to Boston, pointing out that a commute on a train can be productive in ways they cannot be when driving a car.

MassDot is continuing to accept comments from the public about which three alternatives or hybrid alternative the study consultants should develop in more detail for the presentations during the meetings in April. Questions or thoughts on the alternatives can be sent to planning@dot.state.ma.us.

For more information on the East-West Rail Passenger Study, visit https://bit.ly/2vsAnl9.

visit us at
journalregister.turley.com

Where is it!



This week’s photo was taken in Palmer and is a decorative item in a location for those who are no longer with us.



Last week’s photo was of an architectural detail on Converse Middle School.

The answer to this week’s “Where is it?” will run in next week’s edition, along with a new trivia photo for you to consider.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week’s edition, email Editor at bcoulter@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at bcoulter@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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RAIL | from page 1

na Villa Associates, also asked the committee members questions, including a request of service priorities, the criteria that should be used to narrow down the final three alternatives, and what trade-offs would be acceptable, as well as whether or not the hybrids of the six preliminary alternatives should be considered.

After, each of the Advisory Committee members, which included Daren Gray, Project Manager at Baystate Health, Linda Leduc, Palmer Town Planner and Economic Development Director, Butler and others gave their comments,

Farrell provided a brief summary of the committee’s overall thoughts and said that many would like to see more information on

ridership, travel time, and economic development, along with bus service that can be successful when used properly, but not considered for east-west service. She also said that equity and climate change should be priorities, and legislators are not afraid of the costs, phasing is a possibility, and a realistic service should be developed.

Leduc, also talked about need for all alternatives to include stops in the rural regions between Worcester, Springfield, and Pittsfield, including a stop in Palmer, serving the 21-town Lower Quabbin Region. She also referenced the findings of the study prepared for the Town of Palmer by the UMass Amherst Center for Economic Development last June. The entire study can be read at https://bit.ly/2WlodWk.

State Representative Todd Smola (R-Palmer), who is also a member of the advisory committee, shared his views on the East-West Rail Study through an email to the Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop (CPRS).

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Viewpoints

Give up your tribe for Lent

This is the time of year when churches talk about what Jesus Christ gave up — his life — to benefit humanity. What will you give up?

For traditional Christians, Ash Wednesday was the start of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer, self-examination and self-denial leading up to commemorations of Jesus' death and resurrection.

As part of their observance, many Christians choose something to “give up” during Lent — usually something material, and often something that's unhealthy anyway, such as candy or alcohol or tobacco. Foregoing a favorite indulgence can be difficult and cutting out a vice can improve one's health, but in the wider array of personal behaviors one can give up, there are harder habits to break, and greater improvements to be found.

Rather than — or in addition to — boosting one person's wellbeing, why not make a sacrifice that will contribute to the health of our society, our democracy and our future?

Give up your tribe.

America has made remarkable progress tearing down the old distinctions that divided us. Distrust and prejudice among genders, races, economic classes, religions and geographic regions is less of a factor now than at any time in our nation's history. That's not to say these prejudices have been eliminated, nor to suggest that we shouldn't continue to fight them now or in the future. But we've made remarkable progress.

One form of prejudice and intolerance is sharply on the rise, however, and it threatens the core of our community. Even as our physical communities have become more integrated, the anonymity of the Internet and the fragmentation of media have led to an intellectual segregation — a self-sorting of Americans into virtual tribes of like-thinking individuals, choosing to associate mainly with those who hold similar political and cultural opinions, and — this is the worst part — increasingly intolerant of those who disagree.

Mainstream Democrats speak of mainstream Republicans (and vice versa) as not merely misguided, but evil. Republicans seek to destroy Democrats (and vice versa), rather than trying to convince them. The extremes of both parties look on their moderate wings not as allies but as dangerous traitors. Politics has become not a debate but a war. We try to win battles instead of understanding each other; fighting before we compromise.

This primitive tribal behavior is killing our democracy. Give it up.

This Lent — or this political season, if you prefer — give up the satisfying self-righteousness of the tribal warrior. Listen to a rival's opinion rather than just waiting for an opening for an ad-hominem attack. Try to convert an opponent instead of defeating him or her. Be open to a new perspective and acknowledge every time that we are all Americans first and that the incredible diversity nationwide results in a bewildering diversity of experience and opinion throughout the United States of America. For that matter, we are all humans — and none of us is closer to the divine, or closer to perfection, than any other.

The man who made the first Lenten sacrifice, 2,000 years ago, also wanted his followers to give up their tribes, to see the humanity in their enemies, to treat others with equal respect and charity.

Not everyone believes in his story or worships at his church but the message of kindness and empathy doesn't require a particular god or catechism. It can be found in religions, philosophies and ethical systems from cultures all around the world.

Truth and righteousness are not the sole possessions of any political party. Give up the tribes. Return to a true community — our city, our nation, our planet.

About the dreaded “IRMAA” provision

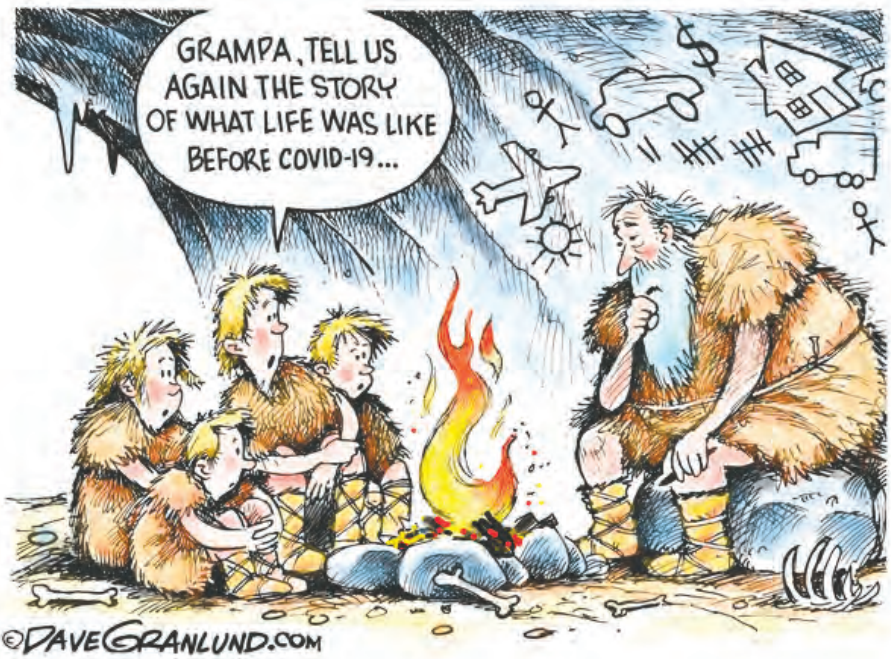
By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: About a month or two ago I was notified that my Social Security was being reduced from \$1,583 a month to about \$1,283 a month, a \$300 deduction! They said it was because my income was over the limit on my last return. I filed my taxes “married - filing separately” because my wife has her own income. If we had filed jointly, I would not have had the reduction. My question is why wasn't this told to us when we filed our income tax last year instead of a last-minute thing? I am a 77-year old and a 100 percent disabled veteran, which probably has no effect on this, but wanted to add that information. Any light you can shed on the matter will be very much appreciated. Signed: Irritated Senior

Dear Irritated Senior: First, I want to thank you for your service to our country. Allow me to explain what I believe happened. Your net (not gross) Social Security benefit payment was probably reduced as a result of a rule known as “IRMAA” - the “Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount.” This is a supplement added to your Medicare Part B premium as a result of higher income, and a higher Medicare premium would mean a lower net Social Security payment.

Although filing your taxes separate from

GLOOR ■ page 7



Pre-start cannas now!

I was trying to think up a good indoor gardening project that the girls could help me with over their unexpected break from school. How about pre-starting some canna rhizomes? I have a few overwintering in the mudroom and if I start the now they'll be good-sized by May. Read on.

Cannas are gorgeous plants for the summer border. Their large, paddle-shaped leaves and fist-sized clusters of vivid-toned flowers add an exotic touch to beds and container plantings. Sometimes, however, a gardener's initial experience with this tender bulb leads to disappointment rather than delight. The plant may take most of the season to reach its mature height and come into flower, only to be struck down by frost a few weeks later. Why not give your cannas a head start? By potting them up now you will get blooms earlier in the season and be able to enjoy wonderful tropical foliage for a longer period.

If you are shopping for canna rhizomes for the first time, you will no doubt find a better selection through mail order nurseries than the local garden center. Standard varieties can grow upwards of six feet tall, whereas dwarf cultivars top off at two or three feet. Choose carefully! All will do best if planted in full sun and fertile soil. Some cannas even make great water specimens. When you place your order, mention to the operator that you'd like your bulbs as soon as it is safe enough for them to be sent in the mail without risk of freezing, otherwise you will likely receive them close to Memorial Day, which is too late for indoor planting.

When your package arrives, unpack it immediately. Canna rhizomes will come in small plastic bags filled with peat moss. At the very least, they should be about the size of your thumb; sometimes they are even double that in width. They ought to be firm, not at all soft. To pot them up, choose a container that is a couple of inches bigger than the rhizome when it is laid out horizontally; one six

to eight inches in diameter is usually ideal. Fill the pot about half way with a good quality moistened potting soil. Lay the rhizome on top with leaf buds pointing up. Any hairy roots, new or old can fall to the side. Cover with two inches of soil. If your finished product reaches the rim, reposition so that you have at least an inch deep “basin” on top to make watering well easier. Place the pots in a warm location and continue to water as needed. When the first sprouts appear, move the canna plants to a sunny window or place under grow lights.

By mid-May you can start to harden the plants off outdoors by gradually exposing them to bright sun, wind and fluctuating temps. After a week to

10 days of acclimatization, and if there are no frosts in the forecast, cannas can be removed from their pots and planted in their permanent summer location. A shovelful of compost in the planting hole along with supplemental fertilizer every couple of weeks will result in big, floriferous plants fast!

Be sure to save your cannas from year to year; it's easy and makes great sense money-wise. I have had the same ‘Wyoming’ cannas going for well over a decade now. After a light frost, dig up the plants and let them dry briefly. Then, cut the foliage away from the rhizomes and store them at 50 degrees in boxes or tubs filled with peat moss. As mentioned, my mudroom is the perfect spot in my house. I am sure there is a place in yours too. After the second season you will have enough divisions to share with family and friends; much to their delight.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

What Congress represents

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

In one of the US Capitol hallways that House members pass through regularly to get to the chambers, there's an inscription of a comment by Alexander Hamilton. It comes from his 1788 remarks to the New York convention on ratifying the Constitution, and reads simply, “Here, Sir, the people govern.”

I've always thought that was a pretty good summation of what Congress represents: it is a repository of the thoughts and will of the American people. And my impression is that a lot of Americans think highly of that idea, too. I've held a lot of public meetings over the years, and even in recent times, when Congress's public standing has been low, people often speak approvingly of the history of the institution itself; they're disappointed in how Congress performs, not in its role within our system. In all that time, I can't ever remember anyone saying we'd be better off without it.

My experience in the House bore that belief out. Though there were always flaws, the process the House followed was focused on deliberation, debate, discussion... and then choosing a solution based more often than not on a rough consensus of its members. Even if I didn't agree with the results, I'd often listen to the debates and think, “I like the way this institution works.”

I still remember the time that Wilbur Mills, the powerful chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, came before the Democratic caucus to talk about the upcoming vote on establishing Medicare. I was a new, young representative, and when Mills told us that we easily had enough votes to ram the measure through over Republican objections, I and many others thought we should do exactly that.

Mills, however, did not. He asked us to give him an opportunity to negotiate with Republicans and find ground that both sides could agree on, so that the bill could win support on both sides of the aisle. And that is exactly what he did.

Mills knew something that often gets forgotten these days, which is that the more broadly a piece of legislation reflects the American people, the greater its acceptability, effectiveness and staying power. If you're in Congress, you're reminded pretty much every day that giving a say to this diverse country is a choice. The body is made up of members who fiercely advocate for their views through speeches, contacts of all kinds and descriptions, public appearances, and trying to win the media over to their side. And the whole institution is a focal point for competing interests weighing in on difficult problems. It is a real cauldron.

All of these beliefs are represented in the Congress, and the legislative process is a key part of how the country works through that cacophony of competing interests. Debate, deliberation, calculation, compromise — it's an inefficient process that, for difficult issues, can go on for a long time. But over the course of our history, it's been reasonably productive.

This is why those of us who value the institution of the Congress — who actually believe in Hamilton's words — have lamented the trend of recent decades ceding power to the presidency. The Constitution is explicit: legislative power is vested in Congress. But if that power is not protected or goes unused, it does not merely evaporate; in our system, it flows to the presidency or the judiciary. And in doing so, it passes out of the hands of the body that most closely represents the American people.

HAMILTON ■ page 7

Social distancing: Most important tool in stopping spread of COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD — Federal health officials are concerned that Americans are not listening to the warning when it comes to “social distancing” and preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

As of March 15, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommended that for the next eight weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the country. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings and other types of assemblies.

“I can't stress enough the importance of social distancing in our efforts to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19,” said Dr. Armando Paez, chief, infectious diseases, Baystate Medical Center.

What exactly is “social distancing?”

Social distancing, the term often used by infectious disease and control specialists and public health officials, means staying away from other people, in other words, avoiding crowds, and maintaining a personal distance — approximately six feet — from others when possible.

It is the close contact between individuals, whether at home, at work, or out in the public that has resulted in the World Health Organization now referring to COVID-19 as a pandemic, said Dr. Paez.

“Maintaining a distance, especially from someone who is sick and is coughing and sneezing, is important because when that person coughs or sneezes, they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain the COVID-19 virus or any other virus. If you are too close to them, then you can breathe in the droplets and become infected. Equally

important is the fact that you could be infectious, yet have no symptoms, and spread the disease to others,” said Paez.

“We have now begun to see mass closings of amusement parks, bars and restaurants, movie theaters, religious services, schools, some stores and many other measures, including companies and organizations recommending employees work from home, all with the intent to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” he added.

According to the CDC, older people are twice as likely to have serious illness from the novel coronavirus and they are advising people over 60 with underlying health problems to “stay at home as much as possible.” That means keeping a social distance by avoiding air travel, going to movie theaters, attending family events, and shopping at crowded malls, for example, which applies to everyone — not just seniors.

“What we know from researchers is that the fatality rate is likely to be higher among older adults. As we age, our immune system weakens in its ability to fight off viruses and

infections. Also, chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, pulmonary disease and others make it harder for their already weakened bodies to cope with the additional strain placed on them by COVID-19,” said Paez.

One powerful example of the importance of social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic is the Biogen meeting held in Boston, which became the epicenter of the Massachusetts outbreak as the virus spread at an alarming rate through the two-day conference. Yet an even more telling example back during the 1918 flu pandemic, as documented in Smithsonian Magazine, is when Philadelphia went ahead with a scheduled World War I parade in September of that year. There were 200,000 people lining city streets and within three days, the inevitable happened, every hospital bed in the city's 31 hospitals was occupied with a flu patient.

You might even want to keep a social distance from your doctor's office, noted Dr. Paez.

“If you are going to see your doctor for a routine checkup, you might want to check with the office first. They might suggest a later date when the virus is under control, unless your doctor is seeing you for an ongoing condition and needs to see you in person, or you have developed concerning symptoms that might require a visit to the office,” said Paez.

Social distancing also means reconsidering how we greet one another in social situations.

“The handshake is out, at least for now. Many people over the years have already become more accustomed to saying, ‘I'm not shaking hands because I have a cold.’ But, we have to take that one step further and not shake anyone's hand, even if you're healthy. Hand-shaking results in transferring viruses and bacteria from one person to another, and that means the new coronavirus,” said Paez.

What to do instead? Give a bow, wave, do the elbow bump. People will understand.

“We all need to do our part to help prevent the spread of this deadly virus. The time to take action is now before it is too late, when as a country many are only now coming to the realization that social distancing is the only way to stop the community spread of coronavirus COVID-19,” said Paez.

For more information, visit baystatehealth.org/covid19.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to dfarmer@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Douglas Farmer at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact Lisa Marulli, 413-283-8393 or lmurulli@turley.com, about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
dfarmer@turley.com**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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Looking Back

Compiled by Bruce Coulter

25 YEARS AGO

FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1995 ...

Fire engulfs Thorndike property

Palmer fire chief compares site of blazing scene to a war zone

By Tina Lak

THORNDIKE - The investigation has been closed without determination on a fire in Thorndike last Thursday that left a family homeless, their barn and ear destroyed and the siding on a neighbor's house melted.

All occupants of the house escaped before the house caught fire and only one minor injury was reported.

Palmer, Bondsville and Three Rivers fire departments responded to the 52 Summer St. blaze at 1:40 a.m. at the residence of Dennis McNamara, Marcia Turner and their son and daughter.

"There was a loud explosion that was heard through the neighborhood and central dispatch was barraged with calls," Palmer Fire Chief Alan Roy said Tuesday.

The son of the family saw a glow in the backyard and woke everybody up and got everybody out," Roy said.

Roy described the Summer Street.

"When we arrived on the scene the barn (that was utilized as a garage) was totally engulfed, the family car was totally engulfed, it had caused brush fires to the side and back of the barn that was progressing really well at that time and it had caught the kitchen and bath area of the house on the first floor," Roy said. "Also, the heat was so radiant it burned all the surrounding trees and melted the siding on a neighbor's house across the street (61 Summer St.)."

"It looked like a war zone," he said. "You don't see (a scene like that) too often."

The only reported injury was a burn from the heat to the face of Second Asst. Palmer Fire Chief Dick Kaczmarczyk.

"He was in the first line that was pulled up to protect the house," Roy said. "The first crew took a lot of heat."

Kaczmarczyk was not treated at the scene.

Palmer Fire Department responded to the fire with two engines, a ladder truck rescue unit, tanker, chief's car and 35 firefighters. Bondsville and Three Rivers fire departments each sent approximately 10 firefighters to the scene. Monson Fire Department was stand-by at Palmer Fire Department.

Palmer Police Department sent three officers to the scene.

"It could have been a lot worse," Roy said.

Roy attributed confining the fire damage to the kitchen and bath of the house to the fire department's quick action and response.

Roy believes that the fire could have been burning for a while before it was noticed because of the time of the fire and the fact that Summer Street is not heavily traveled.

It took firefighters about 30 minutes to contain the fire and they were on the scene until 6:30 a.m. Fire officials have closed the investigation of the fire without determining a cause.

"At this point it's undetermined," Roy said. "We know it started in the barn but there was so much extensive damage to the barn. Too much wiring was consumed to make a factual determination."

State Fire Inspector Mike Mazza, Trooper Dave Percy and state electrical inspector John Law inspected the scene.

No estimate of the total of damage was available and the cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Roy said that the family is staying with neighbors.

Cub Scouts raced their cars across the finish lines Friday night

By Barbara Slater

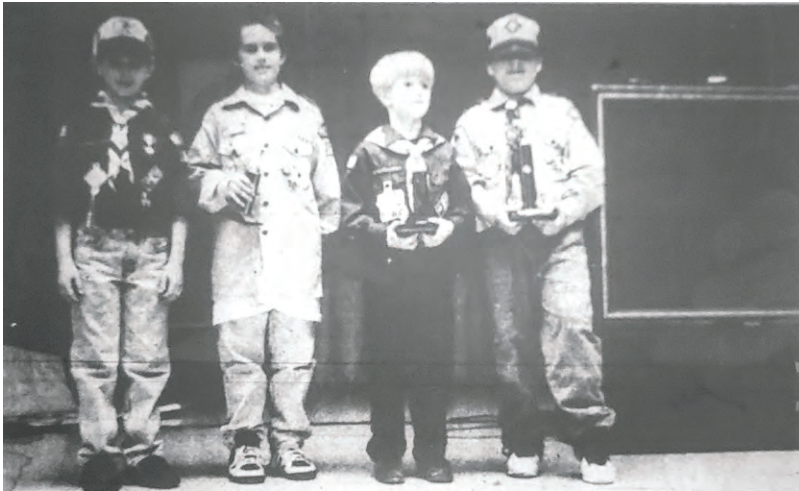
PALMER - Cub Scouts from Palmer Pack #161, were lined up to enter their cars in the Annual Pinewood Derby race last Friday night.

The cub scouts first received their pinewood derby kit last Christmas. It included a block of wood, four axles, four wheels and an instruction booklet. Each scout carefully designed, carved, painted and decorated their bars showing great originality.

Upon entering the race hall, (the Old Mill Pond School Cafete-



FROM THE PAGES OF THE PALMER JOURNAL THIS WEEK IN 1995: Inferno... Firefighters battle a blaze at 52 Summer St., Thorndike, early last Thursday morning. No cause has been determined in the blaze that has left a family homeless and their barn and car destroyed. (Photo by Joy Trombly)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE PALMER JOURNAL THIS WEEK IN 1995: Pinewood Derby winners from Palmer Pack 161 on Friday night. First place (right to left) Justin Machnik; second place, Jeremy Gumbleton; third place, Kevin Aldrich and fourth place, Matthew Skowyra. (Photo by Barbara Slater)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: A view of the administration building at Monson State Hospital, said in need of improvements which have been denied by the institution for many years. An investigation into the matter of the hospital's needs is forthcoming in the state legislature.



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: St. Joseph Club of Thorndike, recently had its communion breakfast following mass in Sts. Paul and Peter Church. Head table guests include, left to right, Selectman William Lemanski, club President Frederick Tyburski, Rev. A. A. Skoniecki, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul; and William Stacy, state controller, who was guest speaker.

ria) the cars were measured. The car Could not exceed seven inches in length. Two scouts had to sand their cars to meet this requirement. If your car weighed more than the 5-ounce limit, scouts and their dads had to take off a portion of the weights. Although the usual lead weights were used screws, washers and even coins could be seen attached to some of the cars

Once the scouts' car was officially registered and numbered, it was placed in "The Pit." Rows of glossy

Painted cars with stripes and decals, lead engines on the hoods or even one with a Lego driver in the seat, were admired by all the enthusiastic contestants

The cub scouts were eagerly anticipating their turn to let their car loose down the three-lane track, as they heard Bill Mullen, one of the Pack Leaders, call, "The first heat of the night begins!"

A few wobbly wheels and fallen off axles were quickly repaired to re-enter the race. Each scout raced at least six times down the track, then the finalists were called for the "Dead Heat."

After everyone cheered on their favorite dragster, the tabulation was in. The winners were: first place Justin Machnik; second place, Jer-

emy Gumbleton; third place Kevin Aldrich and fourth place went to Matthew Skowyra.

Tears could be seen in one proud mother's eyes as her cub scout received his trophy. The first three winners now eligible to enter the District Pinewood Derby in Wilbraham, on March 25

"All of the cub scouts who entered the rate tonight are winners, since all of the participants crossed the finish line with the car they spent hours building, preparing and painting for this race," Cubmaster John Hougaard.

Each cub scout received a blue ribbon award from the pack.

Monson Fire Department seeks approval of new ambulance on warrant

By Tina Lak

MONSON— Monson voters will be asked to approve using ambulance service funds to pay for an ambulance for the town fire department.

One of the department's two ambulances failed to pass a state inspection in early March and was taken off the road. The department has been getting by with mutual aid from surrounding towns.



FROM THE PAGES OF THE PALMER JOURNAL THIS WEEK IN 1995: The Palmer Fire Department trained on its new ladder truck named Tower 1, on Saturday at the Palmer Grange. The 90-foot ladder truck, which cost approximately \$457,532, gives the department a safer and more effective ladder truck. Ladder 1 features a number of advantages over the department's current ladder truck, which is 30-years old, said Fire Chief Alan Roy. Tower 1's ladder is 10-feet longer than the previous truck and has a bucket at the end where firefighters and rescuers can stand with greater flexibility. The bucket has piped water, air and electricity, and has two nozzles for firefighting capabilities. (Photo by Curt Reeser)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: St. Ann Choir, Three Rivers, which will present Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ" A Lenten Cantata, at 7:30, Palm Sunday night, March 22, in the church. The public is invited.

Monson fire officials said Tuesday that the need for a new ambulance was anticipated; however, they had hoped that the inspection would not occur before the May 8 annual town warrant,

"We had planned to replace the ambulance and had an article on the town warrant that was approved by the Board of Selectmen," Fire Chief Elmer R. Hams said "It was not something that came on unexpectedly. We had an inclination it was just a matter of when we were hoping (the inspection would occur) after the town warrant

"The early inspection forced us to sooner" he said

Harris said the ambulance was immediately removed from service after it failed inspection.

Harris and Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Piwcio said that the 1981 ambulance had outlived its life expectancy.

"The life expectancy of an ambulance is seven years," Harris said "We got 14 years out of this one. That's beyond and above what we expected."

According to Hams and Piwcio the ambulance was "rotting out."

The chiefs stressed that the money to pay for a new ambulance will come out of the ambulance service fund. The fund is a combination of payments into the annual voluntary ambulance subscription fee service and payments of billings for ambulance service

Harris estimated that the ambulance billing brings in approximately \$140,000 annually and the subscription fees bring in total of \$15,000 annually.

The projected cost for a new ambulance is between \$90,000 and \$95,000 with bids expected to go out in the newspapers this week. Harris is hoping to have all of the bids in by the town meeting.

"We'd like to get all of the paperwork out of the way," he said.

This way, the fire officials anticipate that they will be able, to have the new ambulance in approximately 30 days after town meeting approval

Harris and Piwcio are requesting to purchase an ambulance that will be slightly larger in size.

"We are asking for a modular (box) type Harris said. "We are not asking for the Cadillac of ambulances, just a basic good working one."

The department will

seek approval from the state Department of Public Health and Food and Drug administration for an upgrade for their new ambulance service from basic life support to advanced life support.

Piwcio said their emergency medical technicians will then be able to insert I.V.s and intubation, to establish an airway in the passenger.

With this upgrade, the EMTs will need to carry additional equipment, hence the desire for a larger ambulance.

50 YEARS AGO

FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970 ...

Investigation 'Welcome at Monson State Hospital

A legislative investigation of conditions at Monson State Hos-



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: BARBARA KORZEC (NADOLSKI PHOTO)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: JUDITH JEZ

pital "will be welcome," according to the institution's new superintendent, Dr. Wesley D. White.

Dr. White made this statement to the Journal following reports that a bill is being filed in the state legislature seeking an investigation of Belchertown State School and Monson State Hospital.

Dr. White, who has been in charge of Monson State since the retirement of Dr. Roger Osterheld on Dec. 1, said he had been contacted by Sen. Philip Quinn of Spencer and Rep. Alexander Lolas of Monson concerning their efforts to have an investigation of the Monson facility.

An amendment to their original bill will be filed concerning Belchertown State School following a series of articles on the Belchertown facility which has been running in The Springfield Union.

Sen. Quinn, in announcing his intention of filing an amendment concerning Belchertown, said the investigation "will not be to destroy anyone...its sole objective will be to improve conditions at both Belcher-

LOOKING BACK I page 7

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DEATH NOTICES

Plouffe, Frederick J.
Died March 13, 2020
Visitation
March 20, 2020
Forastiere
Smith Funeral Home

Wadhams, Jesse P.
Died March 9, 2020
There will be
no services

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Frederick J. Plouffe, 70

MONSON – Frederick J. Plouffe, 70, passed away on March 13, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family and friends. He was born on March 3, 1950 in Hartford, Conn. to the late Edward and Bessie (Smith) Zitka.

Fred enjoyed tinkering with small engines, building and carpentry and working with auto mechanics.

To cherish his memory, he leaves his son Frederick J. Plouffe, Jr. and his fiancée Chelsea Jones of Monson; his girlfriend Linda Bak; his brothers Dick Parker and Bruce Niece; his sisters Mary Madding, Brenda Cosker, and Donna Rhodes as well as his friends Mike Kamrowski, John Grodin, Roxanne

Hebert, and Jerry Talbot.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Friday, March 20, 2020 from 10:00AM – 12 Noon at Forastiere Smith Funeral Home, 220 North Main Street, East Longmeadow. PLEASE CALL 413-525-2800 TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TO PERSONALLY VISIT THE FAMILY AND SHARE YOUR APPRECIATION FOR FREDERICK'S LIFE DURING THE 10:00AM-12:00PM VISITING HOURS. This will allow us to accommodate the Governor's numeric limitations for gatherings.



Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery, Monson, Mass. at approximately 1:15 – 1:30 p.m.

In honor of Fred, everyone is invited to wear their favorite flannel shirts and jeans to services.

A memorial gathering will be also held on Saturday, May 30 at Fred's home. Guests are invited to arrive between 12 Noon – 1 p.m. and will be a potluck and BYOB. You may contact the family if you would like to attend.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.forastiere.com

Jesse Paterson Wadhams, 79

MONSON – Jesse Paterson Wadhams, 79, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by the love of his family and friends, March 9, 2020. Jesse was born May 2, 1940, in Milford CT, to the late Eugene and Jessie (Crosby) Wadhams.

Jesse lived in Monson for the majority of his life. He is a retired Teamster 404, he worked at Construction Services of Wilbraham for 25 years, and 20 years at Alan B. Robins Trucking of Monson. Jesse was an outdoorsman who loved to go hunting and fishing with his children, and his favorite pastime was camping in Maine and Vermont throughout the years with his family.

Besides his parents Jesse

was predeceased by his sister, Nancy Valley. He will be deeply missed by his wife of 62 years, Janet Linda Wadhams, his sons, Eugene Wadhams, Richard and wife Vicki Wadhams, and David Wadhams, all of Florida, his daughters, Sherri Wadhams, and Pamela and husband David Carlson, all of Monson, six wonderful grandchildren, Jessica "Twinkletoes" Wadhams of Monson, Nicole and husband Tim Tavernier of South Carolina, Amanda Wadhams of Florida, Christy Harrison of Florida, Jeffery Carlson of Illinois, Ste-



ven Demers of Springfield, David Wadhams of Florida, and five great grandchildren, all whom he loved dearly. He also leaves his sister, Patricia and husband Merton Hunter, of Palmer. Jesse will also be missed by his many nieces and nephews, many many dear friends, whom he adored and adored him.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at stjude.org, or to the Mass Wildlife at mass-wildlifewildlandfund.gov.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to a total of 366 calls March 10 – 17. The Department made 12 arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear at a future date in the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 10:

Robert Craig, 41, of 35 Chestnut St., Ludlow, was arrested at 6:58 p.m., on North Main Street in Palmer, on charges of breaking and entering for misdemeanor; and trespassing.

Nathan A. Wood, 46, of 7 Memory Ln., Palmer, was arrested at 10:36 p.m., on Thorndike Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license; operation under the influence of liquor (second offense); a motor vehicle lights violation; unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; and an arrest warrant.

Wednesday, March 11:

Michael Rejean Turgeon, 30, of 10 Carol St., Palmer, was arrested at 9:23 p.m., on Main Street in Palmer, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and a marked lanes violation.

Thursday, March 12:

Brittany Schubert, 26, of 58 Riverboat Village Rd., South Hadley, was arrested at 12:45 a.m., in the area of North Main Street and Fletcher Street in Palmer, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and speeding.

Friday, March 13:

Camden Sexton, 24, of 58 Mount Dumplin Rd., Palmer, was arrested at 9:28 p.m., on Main Street in Thorndike, on charges of the possession of a Class B drug; failing to stop/yield; and having no inspection sticker.

Saturday, March 14:

Brendan N. Campbell, 32, of 138 Mason St., Palmer, was arrested at 2:31 a.m., on Mason Street in Palmer, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and speeding.

Sunday, March 15:

Martin W. Henrich, 42, Homeless, was arrested at 9:35 p.m., on Main Street in Thorndike, for an arrest warrant.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department responded to a total of 187 calls March 8 – 13. The Department made four arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear at a future date in the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, March 8

Joseph A. Davis, 56, of 414 Morgan Rd., W. Springfield, was arrested at 4:20 a.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; a marked lanes violation; exceeding the posted speed limit; possession of an open container of alcohol in motor vehicle; license not in possession; and registration not in possession.

Nikolas H. Vanderleeden, 21, of 166 Raymond Dr., Hampden, was arrested at 11:17 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and a marked lanes violation.

Thursday, March 12

Nicholas Andrew Parker, 36, of 134 Wales Rd., Monson, was arrested at 7:34 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of nine calls from March 11 – 16.

On Wednesday, March 11, at 2:14 p.m., the department was on standby for a rescue on Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 2:50 p.m.

On Thursday, March 12, at 9:24 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Park Street. The department returned to service at 10:40 p.m.

On Friday, March 13, at 10:14 a.m., the department responded to a call that was dispatched and cancelled en route on Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 10:20 a.m.

On Friday, March 13, at 1:16 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Michael Drive. The department returned to service at 1:49 p.m.

On Friday, March 13 at 1:38 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 2:01 p.m.

On Saturday, March 14, at 7:31 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with an injury on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 10:15 p.m.

On Saturday, March 14, at 10:36 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Park Street. The department returned to service at 10:50 p.m.

On Saturday, March 14, at 11:01 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Boston Road. The department returned to service at 11:40 p.m.

On Monday, March 16, at 9:30 a.m., the department responded to

an alarm activation on Main Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 9:52 a.m.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to 3 calls from Mar. 10 through Mar. 16.

On Wednesday, March 11, at 2:28 p.m., the department was dispatched mutual aid to Route 181, along the river in Palmer for a possible water rescue. The call was cancelled, and the department returned to service at 2:32 p.m.

On Sunday, March 15, at 7:12 p.m., the department was dispatched to South Main Street for an outside burning complaint. The call was determined to be in Belchertown, and the department returned to service at 7:17 p.m.

On Monday, March 16, at 9:30 a.m., the department was dispatched to provide mutual aid to Main Street in Thorndike for an alarm activation. The call was cancelled en route, and the department returned to service at 9:39 a.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to four calls from March 11 – 16.

On Wednesday, March 11, at 2:28 p.m., the department was on standby for a water rescue. The department returned to service at 2:35 p.m.

On Saturday, March 14 at 6:47 p.m., the department investigated an odor of propane inside of a building. The department returned to service at 7:06 p.m.

On Sunday, March 15, at 8:00 p.m., the department responded to a car fire on Three Rivers Road. The department returned to service at

9:34 p.m.

On Monday, March 16, at 9:31 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Main Street. The department returned to service at 9:39 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to seven fire calls and 19 EMS Calls from March 9 – 15.

On Monday, March 9, at 1:42 p.m., the department responded to 117 Upper Hampden Rd. for a bush fire. The department returned to service at 2:40 p.m.

On Monday, March 9, at 2:34 p.m., the department responded to 368 Stafford Rd. for a brush fire. The department returned to service at 5:09 p.m.

On Monday, March 9, at 2:34 p.m., the department responded to 38 Crest for a brush fire. The department returned to service at 3:00 p.m.

On Monday, March 9, at 10:06 p.m., the department provided public assistance on 68 Butler Rd. The department returned to service at 10:32 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 10, at 3:50 p.m., the department provided public assistance on 68 Butler Rd. The department returned to service at 4:25 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 11, at 10:48 a.m., the department provided public assistance on 68 Butler Rd. The department returned to service at 11:09 a.m.

On Sunday, March 15, at 2:43 p.m., the department responded to Bethany Road for an activated fire alarm. The department returned to service at 2:59 p.m.

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NEWS & FEATURES
As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.
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HAMILTON | from page 4

When President Trump talks of the presidency as if there were no check on it, as if, as president, he is beyond the reach of the law or of Congress, members of Congress on both sides of the aisle rightly disagree. Sometimes they serve effectively as a check, sometimes not. Sometimes partisanship gets the better of them. But for better or worse, Congress remains the spot where the cross-currents of American popular opinion have their best chance of being heard, listened to and acted upon. That’s one power members should never give up.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

LOOKING BACK | from page 5

town and Monson.”

Dr. White said he thoroughly concurs with the legislators in this matter, noting that an investigation might enable Monson State Hospital to gain improvements which it has been seeking for many years.

“I would welcome an investigation here,” Dr. White said, “and I might add that I am not warning anyone in the past for the conditions which exist here. Requests for improvements were made year after year and were not granted.”

Dr. White revealed that some requests for improvements were submitted as long ago as 1935, and were resubmitted each year, only to be ignored.

“Dr. Osterheld made request after request which was not granted,” he noted.

He said he felt that Munson State Hospital was “in limbo” because it is neither a school nor an institution solely for the mentally retarded. Thus, he explained, many of its requests were overlooked because of needs at other institutions.

“Many of the requests from here never got through our own department,” he said. “Others got through but did not gain state approval.”

The department he refers to is the State Department of Mental Health.

Dr. White pointed out that requests for improvements on the administration building at Monson State date to 1935.

It is overcrowded and does not have a proper setup of toilet facilities,” he said. Men and women both use the same toilets, and there are not toilet facilities on all the floors.

Since the 1950s, requests have been submitted for improvements to the kitchen facilities at Monson to bring about a more efficient handling of food. Those requests also have been put aside.

A need for improvements in the hospital’s Farm Group also has been apparent for many years, he said, but nothing has been done.

“I don’t know what we will get this year,” he said concerning budget requests which already have been submitted.

“I have made supplemental requests to those submitted by Dr. Osterheld before he left, but we won’t know what will be done until April or so.”

In closing, Dr. White said that from conversations with Sen. Quinn and Rep. Lolas he was convinced that “their desire is to be of service to us.” “A hard look at Monson State Hospital is needed,” he said. “Through that, perhaps we’ll get some of the improvements that have been needed for so long.”

\$5 Tax Hike Likely For Monson

Monson citizens can expect about a \$5 hike in the tax rate following the animal town meeting Monday night.

The sum of \$1,820,500 was appropriated.

This is about \$236,000 more than was appropriated last year. The largest amount was for the School Department, the amount of \$1,104,785.

Other appropriations were: Fire Department, \$20,065; Police Department, \$71,525; maturing debt on high school, \$165,000 plus interest of \$39,200; Water Department maturing debt, \$15,000; snow and ice removal \$40,000; highways and bridges,

GLOOR | from page 4

your wife does mean a lower income reported to the IRS for you, it also reduces the clip levels at which the IRMAA rule kicks in. For those who file income tax as an individual, IRMAA applies if your “provisional” income from all sources, including IRA or 401(K) withdrawals and half of your Social Security benefits for the tax year, exceeds \$87,000.

For those who file taxes jointly as a married couple, IRMAA applies if your combined income is more than \$174,000. Incomes above those clip levels result in corresponding higher IRMAA premiums, up to a maximum of \$491.60 (for 2020). So apparently your income for your filing status exceeded one of the higher IRMAA clip levels, which resulted in your monthly Medicare Part B premium going from the

standard \$144.60 to an IRMAA premium about \$300 higher. Note that if your income in a subsequent year falls below the IRMAA clip levels, your Medicare premium will also go down to the level appropriate for your more recent income level.

As far as why you weren’t told this in advance, neither Medicare nor the IRS (nor any other Government agency) will advise you in advance on such matters; the onus is upon you (and your tax preparer or financial advisor) to understand the implications of your income on your Medicare premium as well as your income tax obligation. You may want to speak to your tax advisor to see if there is a tax-filing option for eliminating the IRMAA. Once again, thank you for your service to our country, and I hope

hy, 174. Leonard Julian won the 2-year water commissioner term with 162 votes against Robert Gauvin’s 159.

Mrs. Blanche Hickland Day was re-elected library trustee for three years with a 246 vote against Mrs. Patricia Botelho’s 109. The Planning Board on the ballot for the first time, elected Walter Woods for the 5-year term; Karl G. Bopp for 4 years; Robert Piazza, 3 years; Edward Parron, 2 years and Marshal Martel, 1 year.

Elect ed unopposed for one-year terms were constables Charles Bennett and Robert Wilson; sealer of weights, measurer of wood and tree warden, Lewis F. Blodgett. For two-year terms, Mrs. Eda Woods, library trustee; Donald Hunt, cemetery commissioner.

Three-year terms, school committee, Robert Rosia; Tantasqua School Committee representative, William Steele; Cemetery commissioner, Lewis F. Blodgett; water commissioner, Frank Bishop.

364 of the town’s 478 registered voters went to the polls.

*** School Committee organized, naming Mrs. Estelle Wilson, chairman; Mrs. Gloria Kay, clerk and Robert Rosia third member to be committee’s representative on the Tantasqua Committee. William Steele is the newly elected member of the Tantasqua School Committee.

*** Mrs. Alice Hunt, the first woman elected to the Board of Selectmen, was named chairman. Mrs. Hunt was elected last year for a three-year term. Ebersold, the newly elected member, will be clerk. Bernard C. Dupuis is the veteran member of the board.

100 YEARS AGO

FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1920 ...

Walsh Out For Presidency?

Trace of Unseen Forces Found Locally Yesterday

EFFORT TO PLEDGE A PALMER MAN

Runs Against a Snag. Evidence of Carefully Concealed Work Brought to Light

An intimation that United States Senator David I. Walsh is being groomed as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency was brought out in Palmer yesterday when it was announced that the candidates for the National Democratic convention in San Francisco are either pledged to or opposed to Walsh. There has been no public announcement of his candidacy, so that the work has evidently been “on the quiet.”

The information came to light in a statement made by Dr. George A. Moore of Palmer that he would oppose Walsh’s nomination. He has never been favorable to the Senator and an incident which occurred recent-

the above clarifies what happened to your Social Security benefit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

ly has not increased his admiration of the man. Incidentally, it was intimated that W. J. Buckley of Southbridge, who promised not to run as a candidate for the San Francisco convention, had changed his mind and is now a member of the Walsh forces. This Mr. Buckley emphatically denies this morning and has withdrawn his name as a candidate.

According to Dr. Moore. when lie some time ago announced his candidacy as delegate-at-large and secured his papers and Put them in circulation, he had a conference with Mr. Buckley. who was defeated for the State Senate last fall, and who had been named a probable candidate pledged to Walsh. Dr. Moore states that Mr. Buckley agreed to support Dr. Moore, saying that he was not to be a candidate.

Later Dr. Moore was visited by a Man from Boston, whose name he does not care to give, who inquired his attitude toward Walsh. As Dr. Moore has always opposed the Senator, the visitor was told that this policy would be continued. Upon which Dr. Moore was told that if he did not support Walsh, he (Dr. Moore) could not attend the convention. This has just the opposite effect from that which was intended. Dr. Moore declined to be dictated to and is today more than ever opposed to the State Senator and proposes to stat in the fight to the finish, which will be a lively one if the other side attempts to “start something.” Dr. Moore says he is taking orders from no one and can use his own mind in the campaign.

Potter’s Sanity Questioned

Two Specialists Will Examine Slayer of Deputy Sheriff Bills

A motion was made on Monday by Atty. Richard F. Stapleton, counsel for Frank W. Potter of Cambridge, awaiting trial in Springfield for the murder of Deputy Sheriff George A. Bills in Palmer Feb. 25, 1910, for the appointment of a physicians’ council to examine into Potter’s mental condition. Judge William C. Waite, before whom the motion was made, immediately appointed Dr. L. Vernon Briggs of Boston, a well-known alienist, and Dr. James A. Houston, superintendent of the Northampton Hospital for the Insane.

Potter, who was a sailor in the United States Navy, deserted and came to Palmer on an evening train after having shot and wounded Detective Lieutenant James M. Daly in the Cooley Hotel in Springfield The Palmer police force was notified that he had taken a train In this direction, and on its arrival here Deputy Sheriff Bills and Night Officer Charles B. Thomas made a search of the cars. Potter opened fire with an automatic revolver and wounded both officers before he himself was shot by Officer Thomas, Sheriff Bills dying the next day of his wounds.

NATHAN | from page 1

also celebrating Nathan’s life and passion for skiing.

Last year’s inaugural race included the creation of the #Shred4Nate logo, which was created by Nathan’s ski friends, along with commemorative race bibs, bib draw and raffle prizes and custom designed awards, while his favorite flavor of Ben and Jerry’s ice cream was handed out at the finish line.

Because of the Carreiras’ donations to the Stratton Foundation, whose mission is to meet the basic human needs of hunger, warmth, self-worth and well-being, while providing an opportunity for children to grow up and focus on their education and thrive and succeed, a fund named after their son, the “Nathan M. Carreira Fund,” was established. This fund’s purpose is to create a legacy in Nathan’s name while supporting the Vermont and Stratton communities he cherished as well.

This year’s race was originally scheduled for March 15 and had to be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, but donations can still be made to the fund online.

From last year’s race, the endowment gifted \$18,000 to launch three major programs targeting community, schools, families and children across the region.

The Carreiras’ mental health awareness and suicide prevention efforts do not only take place in Vermont. Last October, a group of family and friends, called “Team Nathan,” raised \$19,000 for the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Federation of Suicide Prevention during its annual fundraising walk in the Greater Springfield area. The money collected went to assist in research and funding for suicide prevention.

Karen also said that she is interested in creating something that would provide a strong level of impact for western Massachusetts. The start of this goal is the scholarship under his name at Ludlow High School, where Nathan attended, which has been created to give awareness to students who have struggled and have made it through their troubles. She also said that the second scholarship is scheduled to be given out in May this year.

“I think we’ve done a lot of work, in terms of advocacy and education in the world of mental health and mental wellness for teens and young adults,” said Karen. She also said that the feedback she receives from the all the work helps “turn the grief into something positive.”

Although the race was canceled for this year, the opportunity to donate to the endowment fund is still available. To donate, visit <http://strattonfoundation.org/in-memory-of-nathan>.

STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quabog Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.



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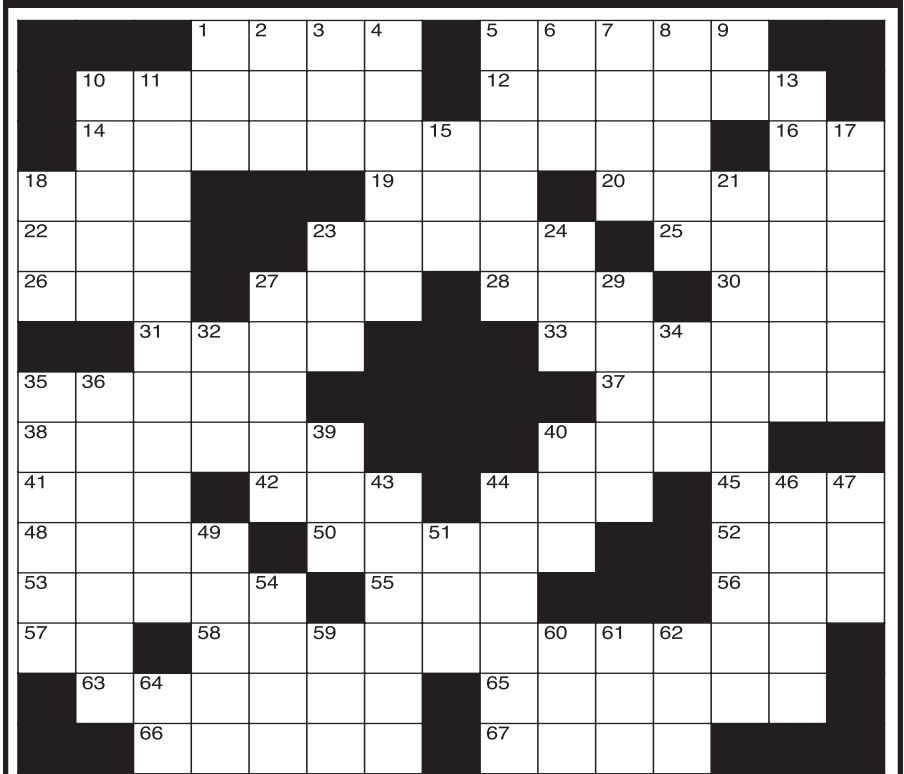
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Currency of Guinea
5. Avert something bad
10. Sounds
12. Immediate dangers
14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
16. Californium
18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
19. Coastal Scottish town
20. Triangular lower back bones
22. Trouble
23. A way to smile
25. Something that is not what it seems
26. Of she
27. Temporary living quarters
28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
30. Indicates near

31. Spiritual leader
33. Soup dish
35. Philippine island
37. No longer fashionable
38. Peaks
40. Alabama football team
41. ___ King Cole
42. Digital audiotape
44. Open trough
45. The woman
48. Cools down
50. Turkic language
52. Body part
53. Pulse steadily
55. Embedded computer hardware company
56. Indicates shape
57. Thou (plural)
58. Odd and remarkable
63. An evening party
65. National capital of Zambia
66. Tantalizes

67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Not naturally outgoing
2. Exclamation of pain
3. Polynesian garland of flowers
4. Surrounded by water
5. Church towers
6. Hot beverage
7. Body parts
8. Travel documents
9. Railway
10. Gradually wear away
11. Measuring instrument
13. Minor dust-ups
15. Strongly alkaline solution
17. Extreme scarcity of food
18. Dash
21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Popular lager ___

- Adams
24. Snitch
27. Trimmed
29. Greek god of desire
32. Take to the limit
34. Cool!
35. Sound mental health
36. Native American group
39. Test for high schoolers
40. Rocky peak
43. Preferences
44. Bother
46. Call attention to (slang)
47. Snake-like fish
49. Bulgarian capital
51. Don’t know when yet
54. Italian Seaport
59. Brooklyn hoopster
60. Where to bathe
61. Equal, prefix
62. Beverage container
64. Denotes openness

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Storowton Village offers summer youth programs

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Storowton Village Museum will offer a variety of special summer youth programs for teens and for children during the month of July.

Teen Leader Workshops will take place July 6-9 for youth ages 14-18. Students can experience 19th century trades, like blacksmithing, textiles, and cooking, in a hands-on setting and learn how these trades are still vital in the 21st century. All sessions will be taught by experienced historical instructors and include meeting modern day leaders in these fields.

"Teens will get to roll up their sleeves and work in the Clark Blacksmith Shop and learn about food sourcing and meal prep during the open hearth cooking session. New this year will be a look at S.T.E.A.M. in the 19th century, with activities centered around gears and pulleys, building catapults and exploring anthropological archaeology," said Museum Director Jessica K. Fontaine.

Students interested in Teen Leader Workshops must register by June 25 and can attend full-day sessions for \$250 or half-day sessions for \$150. Students taking two or more Teen Leader Workshops who are interested in attending for free can sign up for the museum's Teen Leader Training Week, taking place July 13-16. This special second session will impart skills and training needed to become a counselor at Storowton's Early American Summer Programs, happening July 20-23.

"All skills learned during Teen Leader Training Week are adaptable for life outside of our Village, plus teens will get to meet lead-

ers in our community who once participated in youth opportunities here at Eastern States Exposition," Fontaine said.

Children who have completed grades 1-5 by the end of the school year may sign up for Early American Summer Programs. They can pick their own 19th century history adventure, via half-day sessions about Toys & Games, Nature, Art & Native American Life, Homesteading or Archaeology. Two full-day sessions will focus on 19th Century Stage and S.T.E.A.M., complete with components like a friends & family stage performance or a spot in Storowton's Narrow Sea Regatta toy boat race.

"The Narrow Sea Regatta is a long-standing tradition here at the Village and is incredibly fun! Early American Summer Programs are jam-packed with activities, from engineering and the environment to art and sustainability. We're excited Native American expert Gail White and Cactus Head Puppets will be joining us that week. They're museum visitor favorites and we're glad to have them take part," Fontaine said.

Attend all four days for \$185, a single full day for \$60 or a half-day session for \$40. Pick two half-day sessions for \$60. Registration for Early American Summer Programs closes July 9, 2020.

Registration for all Summer Youth Programs at Storowton Village Museum is now being accepted. For more information about programming, please visit www.storowtonvillage.com/SummerYouthPrograms or call 413-205-5051.

USDA announces 2020 application ranking dates for conservation programs

AMHERST - Do you own or manage farmland or forest land in Massachusetts? Could you use some technical and financial help in managing it more effectively? The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service encourages you to sign up for conservation assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Agricultural Management Assistance program. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year; however, the next ranking batching date will be March 20, 2020.

You may apply for NRCS conservation programs at any time; complete applications are ranked for funding in batches periodically throughout the year. All applications determined eligible and high priority by close of business on the ranking date will be considered in the current funding cycle.

Application ranking dates, pending available funds, are scheduled for March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, and August 21 for the remainder of 2020. Ranking dates and the application process are subject to change. Contact your local field office for the latest information. For more information on available programs, the application process, and natural resource priorities, visit the Massachusetts NRCS website at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.

"If you operate a farm or manage

forest land and want to improve your land, we can help," said Dan Wright, State Conservationist for NRCS in Massachusetts. "You can discuss your vision for your land with one of our conservation planners, who will explain the conservation planning process and how to apply for financial assistance."

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and forest land owners to address natural resource concerns through an array of conservation practices. Assistance is available to support private land owners and managers in addressing farm, field, forest, wildlife, water, and/or plant management issues including: Erosion control; farm and forestry conservation plans; fencing for grazing systems; forest stand improvement; grazing plans; irrigation systems; pasture and hayland planting; pollinator habitat; protection of heavy use areas for livestock; restoration and management of declining habitat; riparian buffers; seasonal high tunnels; soil health management plans; waste storage facilities; and wildlife habitat management and development.

The AMA program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Massachusetts producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

Area residents can find out more information on the program by contacting the USDA-NRCS Hadley field office at 413-585-1000, ext. 3, which serves Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Some of the EQIP funding will be provided to farmers and forest landowners via the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which encourages partner organizations to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. Through the RCPP program, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

NRCS is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with conservation districts and the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect soil, water and other natural resources.

Journalism scholarships available through NENPA

Aspiring journalists are encouraged to apply for a New England Newspaper and Press Association scholarship through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England.

High school seniors and college students studying and acquiring work experience preparing them for a career in journalism are eligible to apply.

To qualify, students must be a resident of New England, be a high school senior or college undergraduate studying journalism or a related field, and have GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate a serious interest in journalism by sending a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation and a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper or similar publication or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.

The deadline for applications is March 27.

For more information or applications, visit nenpa.com/students/scholarships.

Quilt show to be held May 2 and 3

SPRINGFIELD - A quilt show will be presented by the Pioneer Valley Quilters on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Elks Lodge #61, 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. Admission is \$10; free for 12 and under. There is free parking. An award-winning quilt to be raffled as well as many baskets of fun items. Items and food for sale. Lots of fun and beautiful quilts on display. Visit the group's website at www.pvquilt.org. For more information specifically about the quilt show, email foy18@comcast.net.

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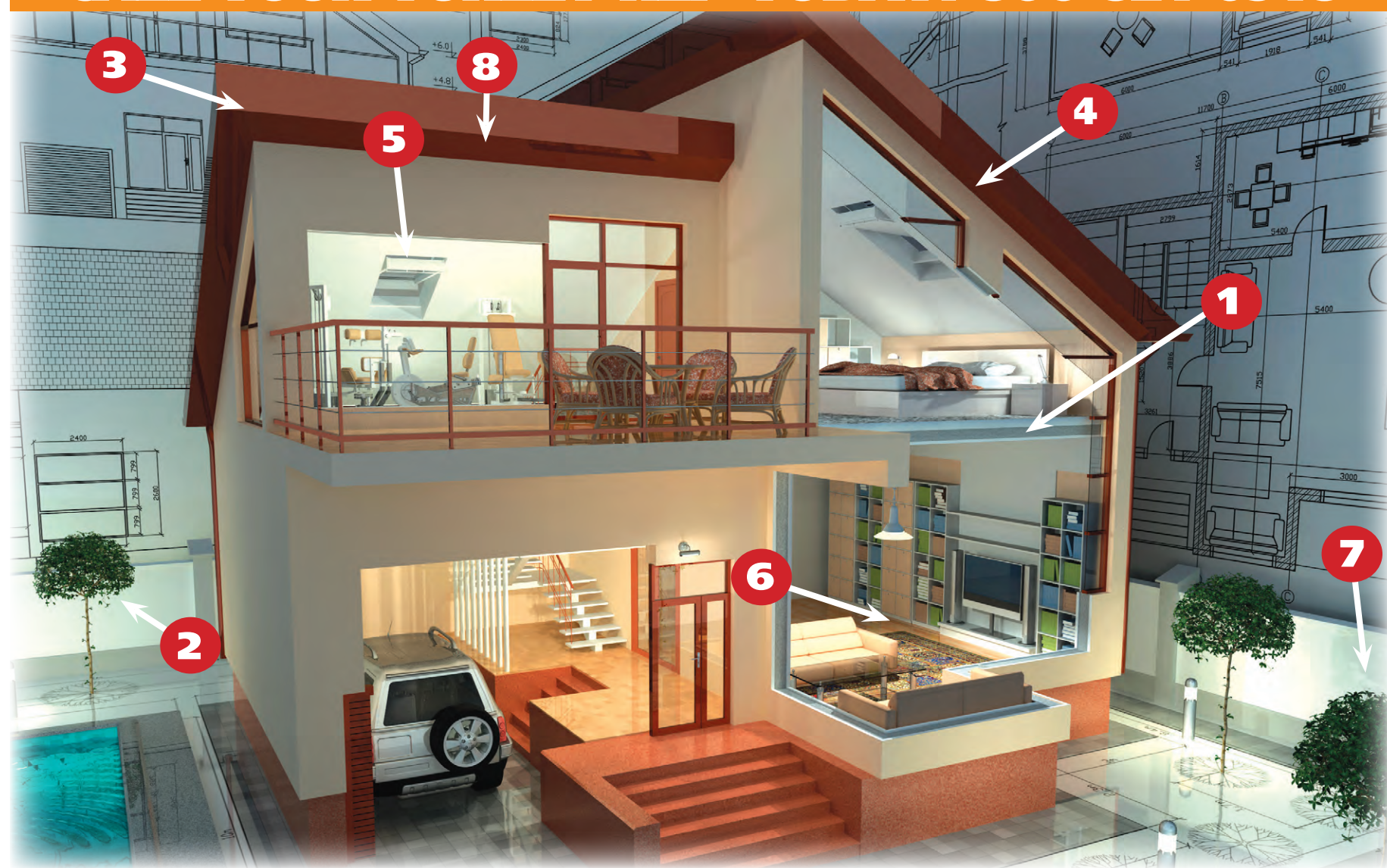
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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monson girls basketball finishes season with 21 wins

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER — With their parents and classmates cheering them on from the bleachers, the Monson girls varsity basketball team won a total 18 regular season games. The Lady Mustangs also



Mia Krupczak heads for the layup.



Sydney DeVries takes the layup attempt in traffic.



Alivia Skowrya attempts a shot with two defenders trying to block.



Olivia Chrzan makes a free throw.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

took home the Western Mass. Division 4 championship trophy for the second time in the past three years.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Division 4 state semifinal game between Monson and Central Mass. champion Maynard was played at Worcester State University's John P. Brissette Competition Court without any fans sitting in the stands.

With their supporters watching on electronic devices or listening to the game on the radio, the Lady

Mustangs magical season came to an end following a 57-41 loss to the Lady Tigers on March 12.

"We're probably the first team in the history of the MIAA to play a postseason basketball game in front of no fans," said Monson head coach Tim Pascale. "The MIAA tried to find another venue for us to play this game, but they couldn't. I'm happy that we had this opportunity, but we just didn't play our best game of the season tonight. It was still an outstanding season and

winning the Western Mass. sectional tournament was our main goal."

The Lady Mustangs, who finished the 2019-20 campaign with a 21-3 overall record, entered the state semifinal game riding an impressive 18-game winning streak. Their only two regular season losses came against Hampshire Regional, who was the second-seeded team in the Western Mass. Division 3 tournament, and Northampton, who

MONSON | page 10

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sports world crippled by coronavirus

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

It feels like to some, the sports world has been literally the "most" affected by the spread of the coronavirus.

Changes are happening every day related to the virus so much in fact that our weekly papers had a very tough time keeping up with them last week.

Now, the changes have started to slow down, because here in Western Massachusetts, there is not much more that can be done to bring the world to a crawl.

Even before many schools made the decision at the end of last week to close their doors for two weeks, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association closed down the conclusion of the state tournament, shut fans out, and delayed the start of the spring sports season by at least two weeks.

But is delaying spring sports by two weeks really a new concept in Massachusetts? Absolutely not. Excessive March snow and cold temperatures slowing the melting process has delayed baseball and softball seasons for between one and two weeks for the last few years.

Last year, the regular season was extended by a week to accommodate the poor weather for the springtime and give schools a chance to play all their regular season games.

The only disappointing part for many athletes, is that it appeared for a while we had an early spring coming with baseball and softball fields already drained, and the grass lacrosse fields just about fit for play on the actual days teams are supposed to open in late March.

But like Major League Baseball, which delayed the start of its season, the start of the spring sports season cannot go on.

The MIAA has also mandated that coaches are not able to have anything to do with their teams, much like the current rules that exist during sport offseasons. That means, with two weeks off from school and no coaching guidance, and then add in almost no facilities to use, athletes will be on their own

to stay in shape and be ready to go if the MIAA allows spring practices to begin on March 30.

But that is not the only piece of the sports world that is affected. So many youth organizations and parks departments have also been forced to stop practices and seasons and tournaments due to concern for the coronavirus.

During the past week, the 36th iteration of the Szlats Memorial Tournament was just halted after only two days of competition by the tournament committee because Chicopee Public Schools had to shut down their facilities.

Other great season-ending events were shut down as well, including banquets and all-star games. The 2020 High School Senior All-Star Game held at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame was cancelled. The game was originally set for Thursday, March 19, but Gov. Charlie Baker has barred any gathering with more than 250 people. The games drawn a few thousand throughout the evening.

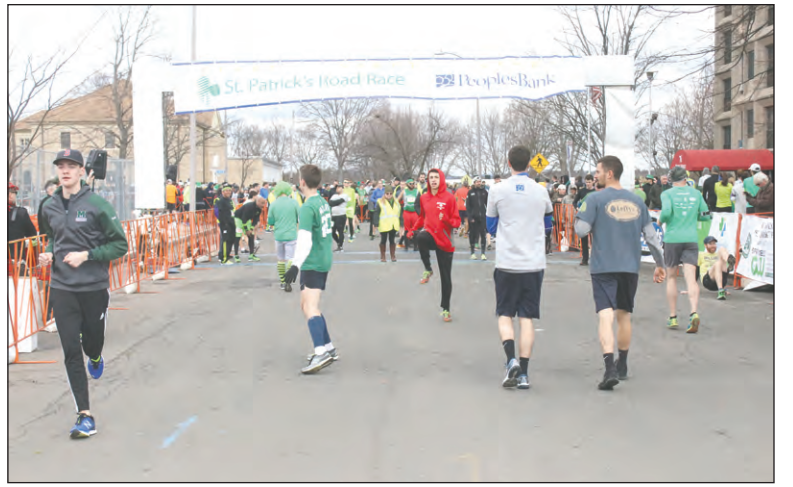
What could hurt the athletes most is the uncertainty. Spring sports are shut down for two weeks right now. But it is possible that could be extended, or worse, cancelled all together. Unfortunately, those options are on the table. The MIAA most recently released this statement on Saturday, March 14.

"The MIAA staff equally shares in these emotions and the existing heartbreak which has resulted due to canceled games, shortened seasons and disruption to exciting school activities, trips and opportunities.

As we face these uncharted waters, be confident in knowing the MIAA staff is well and is readily available to you with guidance, support, resources and kindness. Our office is open and functioning. Scheduled meetings are moving forward in person or via tele- and/or video-conferencing, as organized by each MIAA sport liaison. Communication regarding the status of the spring season will be forthcoming following necessary discussions this coming week."

Turley Sports will continue to monitor the situation and bring you news whenever we can.

LOCAL EVENTS



File photos

Top racers from last year's St. Patrick's Day Road Race warm up right before race time.

State tournament halted before finals, Road Race cancelled

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — Last week, the sports world was changed forever when the coronavirus pandemic cancelled the MIAA state championship games, and the professional sports world went into a domino effect that has led to the stoppage of play in all games and tournaments.

As the situation developed, the MIAA had started to play the state championship semifinal games, which included Minnechaug and Monson girls basketball.

But midway through the Monson game, it was announced that all semifinal winners would be considered "co-state champions."

Monson's game was one of a few that was played without fans before sporting events were stopped altogether in an effort to exercise a new buzzword known as "social distancing."

Locally, one of the biggest impacts to the area occurred last Tuesday afternoon when Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse announced the cancellation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and with it, the popular St. Patrick's Road Race, which was set to kick off on Saturday, March 21.

The event is cancelled and will not be made up due to the immense amount of planning and work with sponsors, public safety, sanitation, and other officials

EVENTS | page 10

SOCCER

Open Cup postponed, no makeup date yet announced

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Western Mass. Pioneers have made a total of 11 appearances in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, which is the oldest ongoing national soccer competition in the United States, since 1998.

The Pioneers have been invited by U.S. Soccer to participate in the 107th edition of the elite tournament after not qualifying a year ago.

But the Pioneers will have to wait a while before it has the opportunity to take part in the event after the coronavirus pandemic has led to the event being postponed.

The Pioneers were originally scheduled to play GPS Portland on Tuesday, March 24.

"We're very excited to be playing in another Open Cup match at Lusitano Stadium," said Pioneers General Manager Greg Kolodziej. "It's always a fun tournament and

it's a very good opportunity for the boys to play against some very good teams."

In the past, the Open Cup has always started in May, but U.S. Soccer decided to begin this year's tournament a couple of months earlier. With the ban on large events, it looks like the Cup may have to wait until May again.

"Because of our league rules, we won't have access to any of the college players until the start of the regular season in May," Kolodziej said. "We'll have to piece together a roster for our first Open Cup game. We do have some older players from last year's team that should be available to us. We'll be signing players during the next couple of weeks."

Federico Molinari will be returning as the Pioneers head coach.

The last time that the Pioneers won an Open Cup match was in 2014 when they defeated Mass.



Daniel Fabian converges with an opponent for possession of the ball during the Pioneers last Open Cup appearance in 2018.

SOCCER | page 10



5 reasons why summer camp is a good choice for kids

Summer vacation offers students a respite from lessons and the routine of school. Children might once have eagerly awaited those final days of classes so they could lounge poolside, skip rocks across ponds and spend the long days of the season playing with friends. But many of today's youngsters spend much of their summer vacations indoors playing with their digital devices.

Perhaps that's why one of the last vestiges of the classic summer vacation escape — summer camp — remains such a viable option for parents who want their children to get outdoors once the school year ends.

Although kids needn't be in camp all summer long, a week or two can benefit campers of all ages. The follow-

ing are five reasons why summer camp might be the right fit this year.

1 Explore talents. Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized, yet often easygoing, camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support, and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.

2 Physical activity: Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing, and so much more. This can be a welcome change for kids accustomed to living sedentary lifestyles. Regular physical activity has many health

benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.

3 Gain confidence. Day and sleep-away camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence, decision-making skills and the ability to thrive outside of the shadow of their parents, siblings or other students.

4 Try new things. Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.

5 Make new friends. Camp is a great place to meet new people and make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.

Camps benefit children in a variety of ways. Lessons learned in camp can strengthen values, build confidence, develop coping mechanisms when adversity strikes, and enable campers to make lifelong friends.



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Factors to consider before choosing a summer camp

Adults often look back fondly on their childhood experiences at summer camp. Camps can provide the opportunity to form lifelong friendships and discover rewarding hobbies that can enrich campers' lives for decades to come.

Choosing a summer camp is no small task, as the options at families' disposal range from overnight camps to weekday afternoon camps to camps that specialize in certain programs, such as music or dance. Cost also is likely to factor into families' decisions, as the American Camp Association notes that cost can vary greatly depending on which camp families choose. For example, the ACA notes that the average daily fee at a resident camp is \$85, while the same fee at a day camp is \$43.

When looking for a

summer camp for kids, families should make the decision together. Kids should be involved in the selection process, as they're more likely to have an enjoyable camp experience if they had a say in where they will be spending their summers. The following are some factors families should consider as they look for summer camps, courtesy of the ACA.

Kids' interests

The ACA urges parents to consider the child's interests and personality before choosing a summer camp. Parents might want their children to attend the same summer camp they visited as youngsters, but each child is different. Just because mom and dad liked a particular camp does not mean their children will. The ACA notes that summer camps

should align with children's interests and maturity level.

Locale

Locale may only be a consideration for families considering overnight camps. Kids will likely be familiar with the locations of local day camps, but overnight camps might be set in mountain ranges, near the ocean or environments less familiar to youngsters. Kids who love the ocean might benefit from oceanfront camps that focus on marine biology, boating or other activities involving the water. In the same vein, youngsters who like camping and hiking might be more likely to embrace camps located in mountainous regions.

Session length

Camps may last as little as

one week or up to a couple of months. Session length should be considered by families looking at both local day camps and overnight resident camps. Parents who want their children to enjoy a largely schedule-free summer might not want to commit their children to lengthy camp sessions, even if those sessions are close to home. If parents think their children can benefit from the same structure they're accustomed to during the school year, then an overnight camp that stretches for several weeks might be what they're looking for.

Summer camps give kids a chance to make memories that will last a lifetime. Choosing the right camp is an important decision that parents and kids should make together.

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DCR announces 2020 Arbor Day Poster Contest for students

BOSTON — Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Jim Montgomery last week announced the theme of the agency’s 2020 fifth-grade Arbor Day Poster Contest: “Trees Please.” Fifth graders from around the state enrolled in both public and private schools, as well as home-schooled students, are encouraged to participate in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest by creating posters highlighting this year’s theme. Schools are then

asked to host a poster contest to determine the winner. The winning poster from each school can then be submitted to the agency for review. Home schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually.

“Trees are not only beautiful, but play a key role in the health of our environment, and I’m thrilled that each year fifth graders demonstrate this importance by participating in the Department of Conserva-

tion and Recreation’s annual Arbor Day Poster Contest,” said DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery. “I look forward to 2020’s creative entries from students throughout the Commonwealth highlighting this year’s theme ‘Trees Please.’”

First place prizes for the DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest include a tree planting ceremony at the winner’s school, a certificate for art and science supplies, and more. Second Place, Third Place, and Honorable Mention winners will also receive

art and science supplies.

“The Arbor Day Poster Contest is a good chance for students to creatively express what they’ve learned,” said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley. “I hope that many of our fifth grade artists, scientists, activists, and arborists take the challenge.”

Trees offer many benefits to people and to the environment, including the reduction in energy use for heating and cooling; the

cleansing of both water and air; the reduction of noise pollution; the beautification of communities; and providing of habitats for wildlife.

This year’s theme, “Trees Please” is designed to highlight the importance of trees within Massachusetts’s communities and diverse landscapes throughout the state. Additionally, the Arbor Day Poster Contest combines both art and science in an effort to instill the vital role trees have on the public’s daily lives. The DCR Urban and Commu-

nity Forestry Program, with support from the U.S. Forest Service, sponsors the annual contest for fifth graders across the Commonwealth.

Posters must be submitted by March 15, and the contest is open to all students currently enrolled in the fifth grade. An Arbor Day Poster Contest Guide is available on the DCR website or can be obtained by contacting Mollie Freilicher, 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@mass.gov.

Public Notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM** in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Mint Cultivation Facilities, LLC, is seeking a Special Permit, Site Plan Approval and a Finding as required by sections 171.28 – Special Permit, 171.67- Industrial A District , 171.29 – Site Plan Approval, 171-124 – Marijuana Establishments, and 171.83 – Pre-Existing, Non-Conforming Uses, Structures, Lots for the operation of a marijuana cultivation and manufacturing facility at the property located at 25 Ware Street, Palmer, MA. This parcel is also known as Assessor’s Map 73, Lot 57.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org/>).

Michael Marcinieć, Chairman
3/19, 3/26/20

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD19P2486EA
Estate of:
LEVERETT CLIVE BARR
Date of Death:
August 14, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **JAMISON J. BARR** of WELLESLEY, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

JAMISON J. BARR of WELLESLEY, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **with surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regard-

ing the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
3/19/2020

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 77 May Hill Road, Monson, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Joseph L. Begin and Patricia E. Begin** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, said mortgage dated July 24, 2006, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, in Book 16145 at Page 564 and now held by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT, dated August 7, 2018 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22313, Page 346, previously assigned by U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust, to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. dated August 16, 2017 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22036, Page 80, previously assigned by HSBC Mortgage Services Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust, by virtue of assignment dated February 9, 2015 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20598, Page 537, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, to HSBC Mortgage Services Inc. by virtue of assignment dated March 20, 2013 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19737, Page 15, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **March 27, 2020 at 12:00 PM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land referred to in this policy is situated in the state of Massachusetts, County of Hampden, City of Monson, and described as follows: The land on the Northerly side of May Hill Road in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being shown and designated as Lot #1 on a plan by Lewis & Cook Surveyors, Inc., Entitled “Plan of Land in Monson, Mass. Surveyed for Chester E. Hulse,” Dated July 29, 1988, recorded with Hampden County registry of Deeds in Plan Book 259, Page 93, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: Westerly by Lot #2, as shown on said plan, 258.47 Feet; Northerly by said lot #2, 240.54 feet; Easterly by land now or formerly of D.J. Gunther Et Ux, 258.4 Feet; and Southerly by May Hill Road, as shown on said plan, 240.54 Feet. Being all of that certain property conveyed to Joseph L. Begin and Patricia E. Begin by deed dated 02/07/02 and recorded 02/07/02 and recorded 02/07/02 in Deed Book 12148, Page 506 of official records.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors’ Title, see deed dated February 7, 2002, and recorded in Book 12148 at Page 506 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT

Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868
3/05, 3/12, 3/19/2020

Legal Notice
The **Monson School Committee** will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the **proposed 2020-2021 School Department budget**, as required by law, on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 6:45 p.m.** This meeting will be held in the School Committee Room at Quarry Hill Community School, 43 Margaret Street, Monson.
3/12, 3/19/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0012AD
In the matter of:
Kyle Anthony Nelson
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6**

To: Kristopher Leonard Nelson
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by: **Rachel Wiesner o/w Rachel Marie Wiesner** of Palmer, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Kyle Anthony Wiesner
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran’s benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 04/15/2020**
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 2, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/12, 3/19, 3/26/2020

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **March 31, 2020 at 6 pm at The Palmer Police Station,**

4419 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. The proposed Marijuana Cultivation Establishment is anticipated to be located at 25 Ware Street, Palmer, MA 01069. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.
3/19/2020

Legal Notice
The **Monson School Committee** will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the **proposed 2020-2021 School Department budget**, as required by law, on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 6:45 p.m.** This meeting will be held in the School Committee Room at Quarry Hill Community School, 43 Margaret Street, Monson.
3/12, 3/19/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0012AD
In the matter of:
Kyle Anthony Nelson
CITATION
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To: Kristopher Leonard Nelson
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

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WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 2, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/12, 3/19, 3/26/2020

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **March 31, 2020 at 6 pm at The Palmer Police Station,**

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 18 SM 006139 ORDER OF NOTICE
To: **Timothy J. Petelle Donna M. Petelle**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):
Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as trustee for Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I Inc. Trust 2007-HE3 Mortgage Pass-through Certificates, Series 2007-HE3

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 12 Orchard Street, given by Timothy J. Petelle and Donna M. Petelle to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Freemont Investment & Loan, dated September 29, 2006, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16246, Page 570, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **April 13, 2020** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, **Gordon H. Piper**, Chief Justice of this Court on March 2, 2020.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
15-022730 / FC01
3/19/2020

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by **Sean Sweeney and Vivian Sweeney** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for 1st Alliance Lending, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated April 27, 2018 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22149, Page 478, subsequently assigned to 1st Alliance Lending, its successors and assigns by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for 1st Alliance Lending, LLC by assignment recorded in said

Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22578, Page 51, subsequently assigned to The Money Source Inc. by 1st Alliance Lending, its successors and/ or assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22714, Page 11 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **1:00 PM on April 9, 2020** at 320 Palmer Road, aka Route 20, Brimfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon located on the easterly side of Palmer Road (a/k/a Route 20), Town of Brimfield, County of Hampden, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 4 on a plan entitled “LOT DIVISION PLAN OF LAND IN BRIMFIELD, MA prepared for STEPHEN R. HOLUK & KEITH T. HOLUK (Owners) ROGERS WOODS & CO” dated December 29, 2014 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 372, Page 70. Said Lot 4 contains 73,472 square feet (1.686 acres), more or less, according to said plan. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors herein by Deed recorded immediately prior hereto in Book 22149, Page 475.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the

premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
The Money Source Inc.

Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
19-011367
3/19, 3/26, 4/02/2020

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by **Jason R. Voyik and Kaitlyn M. Voyik** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, a limited liability company, its successors and assigns, dated April 14, 2011 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 18737, Page 373 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on March 17, 2016 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 21099, Page 474, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, a limited liability company, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 20530, Page 476 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **9:00 AM on March 26, 2020** at 1 Lakeshore Drive, Monson, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land, with buildings thereon located on the westerly side of Silver Street, Monson, Hampden County, being shown and designated as Lot 1 on a plan by Sherman & Woods dated September 5, 2001 entitled “Plan of Land in Monson, Prepared for Lemon & Lemon Land Development” recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 322 Page 50, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: NORTHERLY by Lot 2 as shown on said plan, 372.22 feet; EASTERLY by Silver Street as shown on said plan, 201.00 feet; SOUTHERLY by Lake Shore Drive as shown on said plan, 154.54 feet; And WESTERLY by land now or formerly of Paul M. Brodeur et ux, 378.94 feet. Containing 1,377 acres and being a portion of the premises described in deed dated July 17,2001 recorded in Book 11802 Page 305 and in Book 11802 Page 308. Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagors

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

herein by Deed of David P. Paradis, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, simultaneously herewith.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
17-002171
3/05, 3/12, 3/19/2020



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THE TOWN OF BARRE (population: 5365; budget: \$12million) is seeking qualified applicants for Town Administrator to serve as chief administrative officer of the town.

The successful candidate will have excellent leadership qualities, exceptional oral and written communication skills including successful grant-writing record, experience with municipal finances/budgets, procurement, Mass. General Laws, human resources/ personnel management, and planning. The candidate should be forward-thinking and innovative, with a strong commitment and motivation to work collaboratively with town department heads, employees, boards, committees, and citizens.

The Town Administrator plays a crucial role in the town's overall planning, management, organization, stability, and growth. The position works under the three-member Board of Selectmen. View the job description at www.townofbarre.com. Job requirements include: Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a related field, and five years of related experience with a minimum of three years in a managerial position. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send cover letter, resume, and three professional references to tasearch@townofbarre.com, no later than April 9, 2020.

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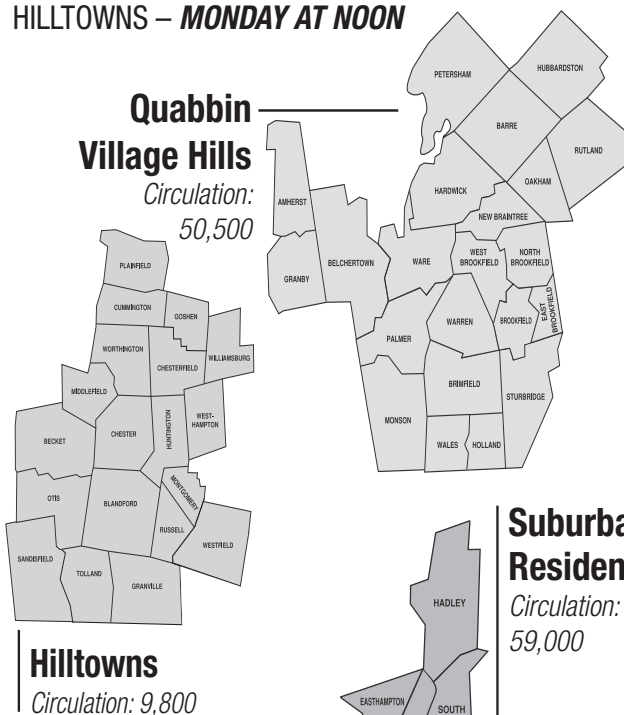
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BELCHERTOWN LORD JEFFERY APARTMENTS has 1 and 2 bedroom units available. Located in a quiet country setting with modern appliances, w/w carpet, porch/patio, heat & hot water included. Conveniently located for shopping and school district. For more information, please call **413-323-5535**, 711 MA Relay, or stop by the rental office located at 121 N. Main St., B-6, Belchertown. 1 BR rent- \$1,000, 2 BR rent- \$1175. Section 8 and Vouchers welcome. Applications also being accepted for subsidized wait list.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Community CALENDAR

E-mail items to dfarmer@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

NOW

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times.

INTERESTED IN QUILTING?

The Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.

CHURCH CABOOSE THRIFT SHOP at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer has bargains on clothing, household items, linens, books, crafts and more. Come and see Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 283-6958 for more information.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

MONSON WOODWACKERS wood carving club will meet every Thursday at Monson Senior Center on Main Street in Monson from 6-8 p.m. The club meets throughout the year. Membership is \$10 for the year, payable in September. Anyone interested should call Barbara Mackintosh at 413-237-8303. There are many beginner projects and experienced teachers, as well, within the club.

STAINED GLASS MAKING CLASS will be held on Thursdays at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Glass and tools are supplied. Take six classes for \$48. Class sizes are limited

and are open to all ages. For more information call Tom Baltazar at 508-245-2525.

PALMER SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Palmer and Brimfield emergency assistance on a periodic basis. The outreach coordinator will be located on the second floor of St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church at 1060 Central St., Palmer. You must schedule an appointment by calling 413-221-8283 so you know what documentation to bring since those seeking assistance have to meet certain criteria and show proof of need. Please leave your name, number and the date you called. Phone messages are checked weekly, not daily.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-0033 for more information.

MARTHA'S TABLE STAFF at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church is supporting the Monson Open Pantry by providing a meal once a month to anyone who will bring a non-perishable food item. Staff have begun packing and delivering the meals in cooperation with the Monson Senior Center. The meal is served at the church, 162 Main St., Monson on the third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call 267-3798.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. The Monson Council on Aging invites seniors over age 60 to its luncheon program every Monday - Friday at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., Monson. Home cooked meals are always served at noon. The requested donation of \$2.50 includes the entrée, bread, dessert and beverage. Menus are available in the COA newsletter. Luncheon reservations must be made by 2:30 p.m. the day before you would like to come to lunch. For more info or van reservations, call 267-4121.

GAME NIGHT will be held at Top Floor Learning at the Palmer Public Library the second Tuesday of each month: Apr. 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept., 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 2020 from 6-7:45 p.m. There is no fee or registration required, and attendees must be 16 years of age or older unless accompanied by an adult. Games include Scrabble, Cribbage, Monopoly, Rummy, Chess, Checkers, Uno, Yahtzee, Bridge, Skipbo, Crazy 8's, Hearts, Dominos, etc. Attendees may bring their own. For more information call 283-2329 or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter inform-

ing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

EVENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 30 – WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

PARISH MISSION/RETREAT "Into the Depths of God's Compassion" will be presented by Virginia Blass, D.M. The topic on Monday's March 30 gathering is "Deepening in Compassion" at St. Patrick's Church, Monson, at 7 p.m. Tuesday's March 31 gathering will be "Deepening in Mercy" at St. Christopher's Church, Brimfield at 7 p.m. Wednesday's Apr. 1 gathering is "Deepening in Mission," at St. Patrick's Church, Monson at 7 p.m. Talks will last about one hour. Blass is an experienced and certified spiritual director, preacher, author and retreat minister. She has been engaged in ministry for over 25 years, and offers spiritual direction, guided retreats, parish missions, parish programs and consultation. She was also a special education teacher for many years. Free will offering only. All are welcome. For more information call Barbara at 413-267-3622.

APRIL 13

On April 13, 2020, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley meets at the Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow, MA. Please join us for dinner and hear about the projects we are working on locally and globally. Details at ZontaQV.org. RSVP by 4/8 to info@zontaqv.org and pay at the door.

CANCELLATIONS

The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Polish National Alliance Council 62 of Chippewa, MA to be held on April 4, 2020 at 11:30 AM at Camp Stanica in Bondsville, MA is canceled for this year. The reason is due to the coronavirus and the restrictions of Governor Baker on limiting public gatherings of more than 25 people. We hope to see you next year. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Sherman at 413-596-9578 or E-mail Terrysherm@aol.com.

The Second Congregational Church of Palmer is canceling its Lenten Lunches due to the coronavirus.

Urgent message regarding Hitchcock Academy Schedule March 23 – 27: We are carefully monitoring the Covid 19 situation. Our general policy is that when the Tantasqua Public Schools close, we also close. Thus, all sessions of our Union 61 Family Foundations 5 pre-school are canceled until further notice. Please monitor our Facebook page and our website: www.hitchcockacademy.org for scheduling updates regarding the following adult class

schedule. Be assured we are taking all recommended sanitary precautions within the building to provide the healthiest environment possible.

ONGOING

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED - Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-267-5025.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield include strength training classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.; Tai Chi on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m.; gentle arthritis and chair yoga combo classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; bingo on the second and fourth Wednesday of the monthly (\$1 per card, 25 cents per game, cover-all price \$10); There is a suggested donation of \$2 for 55 and up and \$3 for under 55. Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with reservations required by 11 a.m. on the previous day. There is a \$2 suggested donation. Planning, crocheting and knitting is offered the first Friday of each month and massage with Vicki is offered the third Tuesday of the month from 9:15-11:15 a.m., by appointment only. The cost is \$5 for 10 minutes and \$15 for 20 minutes. For more information call 413-245-7253.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM is closed for winter and will re-open on April 5, 2020 at 35 Ely Rd., Monson. Nature trails are open daily for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. New trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the sign posts) For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit www.Keephomesteadmuseum.org

BAYSTATE WING AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP sells unique merchandise at reasonable prices. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with some weekend hours extended during the holidays. All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Hospital, a major part of the community, and provide scholarships to seniors graduating from local high schools. Call 413-370-8169 for more information.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee that holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Polish American Citizens Club, 7 Bliss St., Monson at 7 p.m.

HAVE YOU HAD A BABY RECENTLY? If you are living in the Palmer, Monson or surrounding communities and you have a newborn baby, call the Palmer Monson Family Network at 283-6246 to get your free canvas bag packing with information for you and practical goodies for your baby. The Family Network, a Collaborative for Educational Services program, is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

PLAY & LEARN DROP-IN TIME is happening throughout the school year at the Palmer Monson Family Network on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m. The free playgroup includes free play time, snack and circle time and is open to all families and caregivers and their children from 0-5 years old. All PMFN programs are free. The PMFN is located at 4 Springfield St. in Three Rivers and is a program of the Collaborative of Educational Services and receives funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care. For more information call 283-6246.

INFANT AND TODDLER TIME at the Palmer Monson Family Network is available for families with little ones from 0-24 months of age. The free program happens throughout the school year on Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and provides a fun environment for families and caregivers to connect with others with young children. Snack and circle time are included. Call 283-6246 for more information.

HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 40 Brimfield Holland, has announced the following recurring events: Stay Fit classes with Sharon on Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Dance Fit with Alice on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Low Impact Workout with Debbie Schol on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Yoga with Sharon on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Tai Chi with David Masera every other Thursday at 10 a.m. For more information call 413-245-3163.

STORYTELLING WITH COLLEEN LOWE-SMITH at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. In this group, participants will reflect together on life experiences and practice the art of listening as well as telling. Celebrate one another's unique stories, inspire one another, create empathy, discover wisdom, and provoke one another to reflect more deeply on one's own experiences. Participants are welcome to just listen or to tell a story. There is no cost for this program. Call 413-245-7253 for further information.

FRIDAY ZUMBA CLASSES are offered at the Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., Palmer, on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Zumba Fitness is a Latin-inspired cardio-dance workout that uses music and choreographed steps to form a fitness party atmosphere. People of all ages, shapes and sizes are welcome. Erin Wallace, certified Zumba Fitness instructor, gauges abilities and makes sure everyone exercises safely. The fee is \$25 for five classes or \$7 for drop-in. For more information, contact Wallace at 413-668-7284 or wallacee413@gmail.com.

Palmer High School Student Council travels for conference



The members pose before going into the lip sync battle, performing a medley of Miley Cyrus songs.



All dressed up for the dinner dance that happened on the last evening of the conference.



Senior class members Emma Doran, Cassie Florence, Justin Oliveira, Kassandra Velasquez and Jenna Baruffaldi.



Junior class members Olivia Sloat, Olivia Coughlin, Avery Labonte, Hannah Haley and Chelsea Bigos.



Sophomore class members Mia Murray and Ava Denault are joined by Freshman Brady Stahelski.

The Palmer High School Student Council recently attended the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils conference in Hyannis, Mass.

The three-day conference consisted of learning about new ways to promote leadership and that can be beneficial to Palmer High School. Students said they each learned something new from another school, such as activities that get all students involved.

The conference was filled with 1,500 high school students from all over the state of Massachusetts, which allowed the delegates from every school to meet new friends and engage in four different workshops, all with no one else from the student's own school.

Students from Palmer who attended included Ava Denault, Avery Labonte, Brady Stahelski, Cassie Florence, Chelsea Bigos, Emma Doran, Hannah Haley, Jenna Baruffaldi, Justin Oliveira, Kassandra Velasquez, Mia Murray, Olivia Coughlin, Olivia Sloat and Miyah Mega.

The first day of the conference started with students boarding a coach bus with students from Ware, then heading to Hyannis. The students stopped for food at the mall, then headed to the hotel, which had an indoor water park.

Palmer High also took part in the polar plunge for the Special Olympics at a beach a few miles down the road from the conference hotel.

During the first night of the conference students had dinner, general sessions, workshops and a presentation from a keynote speaker. Later on, there was a lip sync battle and other fun activities like karaoke and time to enjoy the pools.

The first full day at the conference consisted of three workshops, general sessions and another keynote speaker. Each school also voted for the MASC e-board president, vice president, secretary and delegates.

Students had free time before dressing up for a dinner and banquet with speakers and awards. After the banquet was a dance party, with all 1,500 kids on the dance floor. On the final day was an end session, the new board was announced and every student said goodbye to their new friends. "MASC is truly an unforgettable experience that will last a lifetime, and I can truly say from a perspective of going twice, you learn so much that will help in a school setting and will also help you succeed in life," said Palmer High School student Olivia Sloat.

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